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Japan Slump: In America, They Call It A Recession

With Unemployment At 2.2%, Tokyo Asserts It's Merely a Slowdown

By Paul Blinstein
Washington Post Service

TOKYO — Japan's economic slowdown reached the status of a full-blown recession Thursday — at least by the American definition — as government figures showed that economic growth turned negative for two quarters in a row.

The last time Japan suffered a fall in output for two consecutive quarters was during the 1973-74 oil shock.

Gross domestic product shrank by 0.4 percent in the July-September quarter, and revised figures showed that GDP also contracted in the previous quarter, by 0.2 percent, the Economic Planning Agency said. GDP measures the economy's total goods and services, excluding exports and imports. The figures are adjusted for inflation.

"By the U.S. definition, this is now a recession," said Robert Feldman, chief economist at Salomon Brothers' Tokyo office. He was referring to the fact that in the United States, a recession is generally deemed to have occurred when the economy contracts in back-to-back quarters.

Until now, the Japanese economy has been most accurately described as being in a pronounced slowdown, decelerating from the surcharged 5 percent annual growth rate of the late 1980s to a pace that is less than half as fast but still positive.

The Japanese government does not yet consider the economy to be in recession, according to an Economic Planning Agency official, who said that Japan uses a variety of indicators for its definition. Japanese workers are certainly not suffering nearly as much as their American counterparts are; unemployment stands at 2.2 percent because of the lingering effects of a labor shortage.

Using another measurement, gross national product, Japan's growth was zero in the second quarter and minus 0.4 percent in the third, which would put the economy just on the borderline of a U.S.-style recession.

But GDP is widely considered to be the single best measure of a country's domestic economic expansion rate, since it is not distorted as GNP is by factors beyond a country's borders.

"These figures show that the economy this year is as bad as 1974, which was the last real recession," said Mineko Sasaki-Smith, an economist at Credit Suisse First Boston. The revised figures for the second quarter were substantially worse than a previous report that had shown both GDP and GNP growth to be positive.

Although Japan endured major slowdowns in 1980, when a second oil crisis struck, and in 1986, when a strong yen severely strained Japan's export machine, growth never turned negative for more than one quarter during those periods.

Most forecasters expect the economy to begin recovering some time next year, perhaps in the second quarter.

Help from the government is on the way. The lower house of the parliament approved an \$86 billion package of public works and other pumping money measures this week. The upper house is expected to follow suit, although passage has been delayed by partisan squabbling over investigation of a political scandal.

Many analysts also believe that the Bank of Japan will give the economy one more dollop of stimulus by cutting the official discount rate again, from its current 3.25 percent level.



A resident fleeing flames from the burning tanker Aegean Sea in La Coruña, Spain.

A Major Oil Spill Off Spain

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

LA CORUÑA, Spain — A Greek oil tanker ran aground entering this southwestern port Thursday amid split in two, spilling vast quantities of crude that threatened beaches and marine life.

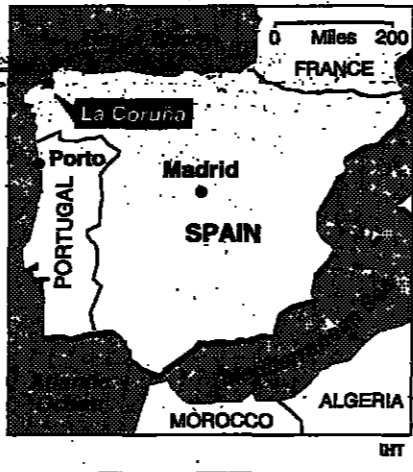
The ship caught fire, and an oil slick about 20 kilometers long by 1.5 kilometers wide was reportedly oozing up the rugged coast of Galicia, where fishing is basic to the region's economy.

Environmentalists said oil-drenched gulls and cormorants had been sighted.

Thick plumes of greasy black smoke from the tanker billowed over a neighborhood near an abandoned lighthouse in the city on Spain's northwest tip. The police evacuated several thousand residents.

Officials said all 29 crew members had been rescued.

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Bush Wants Troops Out Of Somalia by Jan. 20

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

WASHINGTON — As the United States prepared to send 28,000 troops to Somalia to clear the way for humanitarian relief, President George Bush said he wanted the troops in and out of the East African country by the time he leaves office on Jan. 20.

With hundreds of people dying daily in Somalia and the collapse of the government there, the United States and its allies were rushing to move in as soon as the Security Council approved the operation. Unanimous approval was expected later Thursday.

France announced Thursday that it would join the international military force. Belgium and the African nations of Zimbabwe, Nigeria and Kenya were among countries considering sending troops. Britain said it would not contribute troops.

A State Department source said the United States and other countries would contribute financially to the operation. In Tokyo, officials said that Japan's contribution would take the form of financial assistance.

The first American units would include 1,800 Marines, followed by 16,000 more Marines and about 10,000 army troops, a Pentagon official said. The Marine force includes helicopters, including some capable of combat operations.

"We obviously would like to resolve the military aspects of it as quickly as possible, and because the president leaves office on Jan. 20," said Martin Fitzwater, the White House spokesman. "If we could have them out before then, that certainly would be preferable."

U.S. military officials said it was likely to be a very open display of American firepower, aimed at intimidating Somali warlords into allowing free distribution of relief supplies.

"You invite those warlords in, bring out an M-1 tank, let it blow one of their armored pickup trucks to pieces and say, 'Any questions?'" said a Pentagon official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Clan battles have raged in Somalia since the collapse of President Mohammed Siad Barre's rule in January 1991, worsening a famine that has killed 300,000 people and put another 2 million at risk.

Well-armed militias, consisting mostly of untrained young men and boys, have stolen at least half of the food and medicine shipped to Somalia and paralyzed a 500-member UN peacekeeping force in place since September. The port and airport of Mogadishu — have been virtually shut down by the threat of banditry.

The U.S. military's task, according to the resolution before the Security Council, will be to establish "a secure environment for humanitarian relief operations in Somalia."

Diplomats at the United Nations said the vote would be unanimous for the resolution, which authorizes member states to use force against anyone preventing relief supplies from reaching civilians and allows, by implication, an American commander to lead the operation.

In a direct warning to the warlords, the resolution also threatens to punish individuals responsible for the "deliberate impeding" of food and medical deliveries.

Envoys worked on the document until the last minute to assuage concerns among African nations that the operation was a genuine effort

to stop mass starvation and not a U.S. venture to impose its will on a poor country.

But the UN resolution is so vaguely worded that it is not clear who will make the decision to withdraw, and what conditions would have to be met. In the interest of expediency, diplomats tried to gloss over the question of what constitutes a "secure environment."

"I think it's like the elephant coming out of the jungle: You know it when you see it," said Sir David Hannay, Britain's UN representative.

Edward J. Perkins, the U.S. representative, also tried to minimize the issue. He said that the determination of a "secure environment" would be made by Secretary-General Butros Butros Ghali in collaboration with the commander of the operation in Somalia. The decision to withdraw troops would be made "in the finality" by the Security Council, he said.

Mr. Perkins' remarks suggested that the United States would not have free rein in Somalia, as it did in the multinational force that drove Iraqi troops from Kuwait last year with the Security Council's approval.

Mr. Bush called other world leaders and President-elect Bill Clinton to consult about the crisis in Somalia as the Security Council prepared to vote on authorizing a military operation to protect relief efforts. Mr. Fitzwater said.

Mr. Bush met with top military officers and other defense officials Thursday morning.

Mr. Clinton has been "publicly supportive," Mr. Fitzwater noted.

In Little Rock, Arkansas, the president-elect said he was being kept informed by the White House on developments and would withhold

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Harsh Lessons From 2 UN Fronts In Somali Capital, a Taste Of Troubles That Lie Ahead In Bosnia, Rising Casualties And an Ambiguous Mandate

By Todd Shields
Washington Post Service

MOGADISHU, Somalia — The giant articulated truck carried a quadruple-barrel anti-aircraft gun and a dozen grinning Somali gunmen. It was blocking the gate of a villa.

Inside the villa, behind walls topped with broken glass, was the field commander of the United Nations troops already in Somalia.

He wanted to drive the few hundred yards to the international airport, which his men hold over the objections of the area's main warlord. He had to wait a few seconds until the Somali gunmen, with those atop the truck jeering and gesturing, maneuvered their vehicle out of the way.

Standing by the gate, watching the ragtag gang, was a UN staff officer in crisply pressed field uniform. He shook his head.

"They have all the weapons in the world," he said. "That's the problem we face every day."

And so went a routine event in the hot, dusty, sometimes tense, often dangerous and ultimately frustrating assignment of Pakistan's Frontier Force regiment.

The 500 soldiers represent the strongest effort to date by the United Nations to break the stranglehold that extortion and racketeering have placed on efforts to feed Somalia's starving.

But in what may be something of a cautionary tale for the U.S.

Some encouraging news for the UN team in Cambodia. Page 2.

See SOMALIA, Page 3

By Mary Battista
Washington Post Service

VITEZ, Bosnia-Herzegovina — On the day they reached full deployment here in central Bosnia, British troops with the UN peacekeeping force decided to drive their gleaming white tanks into the besieged town of Travnik, just down the road.

The tour began well. Muslim and Croatian children and adults, badly frightened after days of heavy Serbian shelling, crawled out from basement shelters to cheer the parade of armor and the British

Serbian panel bars Milan Pantic from running for president. Page 2.

Union Jack. Even the Serbian gunmen in the surrounding mountains seemed momentarily cowed and fell silent.

As the day went on, however, and British soldiers failed to point their cannon toward the Serbs in the hills, the cheering gradually stopped. To the dismay of the British troops, young Muslims and Croats on the street began hurling bricks and rocks.

The fusillade bounced harmlessly off the tank sides, but the point had been made.

"You really can't blame the local people," a British officer said later. "They'd been praying for help from the West for a year. The UN finally arrived in its big, heavy vehicles and the people thought they'd been saved. It's very hard for them to understand why we're not aiming at the Serbs."

Bridging the potentially explosive gap between popular expecta-

See SERBS, Page 2

China Threatens Hong Kong Pact With Britain

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BEIJING — China said Thursday that Governor Chris Patten must abandon his project for democratic reform in Hong Kong or risk calling into question the basic agreements covering the handover of the territory in 1997.

The issue facing the British side is now whether the Sino-British Joint Declaration and the other agreements reached between the two sides are still needed," Li Jianying, the acting Foreign Ministry spokesman, said at a weekly news briefing.

Mr. Li's statement was Beijing's strongest suggestion yet that it might consider reviewing

Hong Kong stocks tumbled 8 percent as political worries panicked investors. Page 11.

Kiosk

Car Bomb Kills 14 in Colombia

MEDELLIN, Colombia (AFP) — A car packed with dynamite exploded here as a police patrol passed by, killing 14 people and injuring 19 in the worst attack of its kind in nearly two years, the police said Thursday.

The bombing targeted a police patrol vehicle carrying nine officers into a death trap and damaged scores of nearby buildings that housed restaurants, hotels and stores.

Police suspected that Pablo Escobar Gaviria, the fugitive drug lord, was behind the attack. No group took responsibility, but the authorities were convinced it was carried out by the Medellin cocaine ring in reprisal for recent killings of leading drug figures.

Israel Drops an Official in Harassment Case

JERUSALEM (Reuters) — An Israeli secret police official was being relieved of his post following a journalist's complaint that he harassed her, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's office said Thursday.

Dow Jones	Trib Index	General News
Down 9.72	Down 0.49%	U.S. insurers urged a revision of the health care system. Page 3.
3,276.53	90.12	A Mafia prosecutor, found dead, apparently committed suicide. Page 5.
The Dollar	Business/Finance	Two airlines are dueling for a stake in Qantas. Page 11.
New York, Thurs. close	Previous close	The German economy shrank in the third quarter. Page 13.
Doll 1.583	1.574	
Pound 1.664	1.6525	
Yen 124.87	124.42	
FF 5.3875	5.3655	



IRA BLAMED IN MANCHESTER BLASTS — Two of the 65 people wounded by bombs Thursday in Manchester being comforted by passers-by as they awaited first aid. Two bombs exploded during the morning rush hour. The police evacuated the city center. They blamed the Irish Republican Army.

Horizons, Lost and Found: Fantasyland in African Fantasy Land

By Bill Keller
New York Times Service

SUN CITY, South Africa — You are in Africa, but in no particular place.

The drizzling rain forest says the latitude is tropical. But that grove of pendulous baobab trees, adjusting to their new home across the lagoon-sized swimming pool, implies savannah. The architecture is neither Luxor nor Marrakech nor Kalahari game lodge, but something of each and more so. You're a bit lost.

You are, in fact, in the Lost City, the Southern Hemisphere's most audacious and most deafeningly hyped theme resort.

This is Africa as it might have been had Steven Spielberg and Donald Trump conspired to reinvent it for a clientele of sheikhs: a drought-proof, disease-free, nonviolent and nondominational, \$210-a-night-minimum tourists will storm the subcontinent in a spending frenzy, and that they will want to experience Africa, as long as it is not too African.

"I believe that people aren't going to travel all the way to visit us here to see what they could see elsewhere in the world," said Sol Kerzner, the hotel and casino impresario, musing over his 25-hectare (62-acre) domain from a veranda of his hotel, the Palace, a cathedral of blushing towers and blue domes, elephant tusks and kudu gargoyles and thousands of concrete palm fronds.

"And consequently I began to visualize... I saw a major African jungle with rivers, with waterfalls, with what you would expect in a jungle," he said, "and that the concept would revolve around that, and the animals of Africa."

This fantasy of Africa is 160 kilometers (100 miles) northwest of Johannesburg, within another white man's African fantasy — Bophuthatswana, one of four "homelands" invented by racial scientists in the apartheid heyday as repositories for unwanted blacks. Its independence is not taken seriously by any country except South Africa.

When Bophuthatswana was still newly minted, 13 years ago, Mr. Kerzner built here the Las Vegas-style Sun City complex as a place where South Africans could escape their society's puritan constraints to enjoy gambling and bare-breasted chorus lines in an interracial setting two hours' drive from Johannesburg.

The apartheid fiction of the black homelands has been an asset to Mr. Kerzner's casino empire, which also has resorts in the ostensible states of Ciskei and Transkei.

Homeland law liberated him from the anti-gaming laws of the motherland, from the South African trade unions that are banned here and from the tediously accountable ways of democracy.

Bophuthatswana's president, Lucas Mangope, for example, did not need to fret about protest from drought-stricken farmers and one-pump villages when he agreed to build the new water lines that deliver the 9.8 million liters (2.6 million gallons) of water a day to water the Lost City's gardens, fill its lakes and flush the toilets in its 538-room hotel.

But Bophuthatswana is not the refuge it once was. First the anti-apartheid cultural boycott of the mid-1980s put Sun City off limits as a venue for world-class talent. Then a recession, and a proliferation of unregulated mom-and-pop casinos.

See LOST, Page 2

Protests Spread in Germany

New Steps Target Rightist Violence

By Stephen Kinzer
New York Times Service

BERLIN — As Germans prepared new protests against the wave of anti-foreigner violence sweeping their country, leading politicians pledged Thursday to crack down on rightist terrorism.

For the first time, Chancellor Helmut Kohl acknowledged criticism that he had reacted too slowly to the wave of violence.

"Our federal and state governments are taking every legal step to combat violence and political extremism," Mr. Kohl assured foreign diplomats at a reception in Bonn. "I regret that this clear and unmistakable resolve was not understood and appreciated everywhere. None of us minimizes the problem."

Mr. Kohl's office announced Thursday that he had directed one of his senior aides to coordinate a new "interministerial working group" that will coordinate and recommend further steps in the fight against rightist violence.

President Richard von Weizsäcker told a Jewish group Thursday in Frankfurt that Germany was living through a "difficult time."

"The state has a duty to guarantee everyone a life free from fear, even those who are weak," Mr. von Weizsäcker said. "This duty must and will be fulfilled."

Rainer Voigt, chairman of the Association of German Judges, urged judges to react as harshly to rightist terror as they did to leftist terror in past decades.

"If we don't do this," Mr. Voigt told an audience of judges in Dresden, "we open ourselves up to the charge that the state reacts when its leading citizens are attacked, but not when the victims come from social minorities."

In Munich, a group of citizens announced plans for a mass march against racism that they say may be the biggest demonstration held in that city since the end of World War II. They hope that 100,000 people will take to the streets carrying candles to show their opposition to violent extremism. Organizations from church parishes to sports clubs to kindergartens have agreed to participate.

Honecker Disavows 'Legal and Moral Guilt'

By Marc Fisher
Washington Post Service

LEIPZIG — The former East German Communist leader, Erich Honecker, an unrepentant revolutionary currently held in Berlin's Moabit prison, made his last stand Thursday, responding to manslaughter charges with an indignant speech dismissing his trial as "harsh" and "political show."

Hands shaking, the 80-year-old, cancer-ridden builder of the Berlin Wall read an hourlong address in which he swore, "I will not live to hear your verdict."

"The punishment you apparently have in mind will not reach me," he said.

Mr. Honecker, the first and likely only former East-bloc leader to be tried for Communist-era abuses, is charged with manslaughter in 13 of the 350 incidents in which East Germans were killed trying to flee their country. But Mr. Honecker, a fugitive from German justice for two years until he was forced out of the Chilean Embassy in Moscow in July, refused to respond directly to the charges, saying that would lead the trial "the appearance of justice."

Instead, he defended his life's dedication to communism and sought to salvage a decent reputation for the country he helped found and then watched dissolve as its people peacefully but firmly declared it a disaster zone.

"I lived for the German Democratic Republic," Mr. Honecker said, using East Germany's official name. He accepted "political responsibility" for the killing of citizens who tried to cross the Berlin Wall, but "without legal and moral guilt." Mr. Honecker said it was his superiors in Moscow who ordered the wall built and secured, not the East Germans named in official directives.

The decision in 1961 to build the wall "was correct and remained correct," Mr. Honecker said, although he later said the shooting of escaping citizens "damaged us politically." He credited the wall with averting nuclear war and bringing East and West together, a conclusion so novel it brought gasps and chuckles from the courtroom audience.

Mr. Honecker's speech, written in late-night sessions at a portable typewriter in his jail cell, was a nostalgic return to a language not heard in three years, a worthy recitation of socialist jargon.

A lifelong Communist jailed for 10 years by the Nazis for his political beliefs, Mr. Honecker compared himself to the "Nazi officials" of the crimes of Nazi Germany and accused Berlin authorities of conducting "a Nuremberg trial against communism."



Anstol Shabad, crouching, pushing his way toward the speakers' podium Friday as others tried to stop him.

Brawl Erupts at Moscow Congress Session

By Fred Hiatt
Washington Post Service

MOSCOW — A Russian legislative session erupted into a pushing, pummeling brawl in the Great Kremlin Hall on Thursday after an emotional debate about Russia's reforms, bringing the day's session of the Congress of People's Deputies to a premature close and leaving unresolved the future of President Boris N. Yeltsin's reformist government.

Dozens of deputies shoved and jostled each other near the speaker's podium while Mr. Yeltsin at first watched in apparent disgust from his raised seat and then stalked out.

Other deputies stood on the arms of their chairs for a better view, hooting and cheering.

The speaker of the Congress, Ruslan I. Khasbulatov, cried into his microphone, "Esteemed people's deputies, defend me against these deputies!" and then made a hasty exit after declaring an indefinite recess.

Afterward, in a Kremlin lobby buzzing with excitement, some deputies decried the melee as "shameful," "repulsive" and "embarrassing." But other deputies noted that similar scenes had been recorded in parliaments in Japan and Korea, and one, Leonid Kuravich, said jokingly that Russia was simply "trying to live like civilized countries elsewhere."

The brawl ostensibly concerned a procedural matter, relating to whether an important vote on Friday would take place by secret or open ballot. But it appeared to reflect the deep anxieties of many conservative deputies, who see the power they enjoyed under the Soviet system slipping away, and the frustrations of liberal reformists, who believe progress toward democracy and a free market is being blocked by the Congress.

Many deputies said they expected the Congress to vote Friday on constitutional amendments that would strip Mr. Yeltsin of much of his authority. A no-confidence vote on Mr. Yeltsin's acting prime minister, Yegor T. Gaidar, the architect of the Russian economic reforms, was also possible Friday or Saturday, Congress leaders said.

Mr. Gaidar, 36, an economist who has defended his "shock-therapy" reforms against all critics, had to listen from his front-row seat on Thursday as a parade of deputies attacked him. One accused him of "sacrificing a generation," while another said Mr. Gaidar's program was a "catastrophe."

In a brief, caustic reply shortly before the brawl, Mr. Gaidar said he would not bother to defend himself against accusations that he was an agent of "international imperialism." Then, while acknowledging serious mistakes, he asserted that his most conservative critics would lead Russia back toward the Siberian gulag.

"I am happy that everybody is now in favor of reform," he said sarcastically, as deputies hissed and booed. "This is a dramatic breakthrough because there was no shortage of opponents to market-oriented reforms only one year ago."

But if we take a look at what these proposed reforms are, we get a very interesting picture. It is proposed to give up the idea of private land ownership, to check the process of privatization, to freeze wages and prices, to revive the state-planning agency Gosplan, to call to account the former republics, which seem to have obtained too much independence and then, presumably, to build labor camps for the agents of world imperialism.

Mr. Gaidar's reference to labor camps set off another round of catcalls.

Despite the high emotions of the day, several deputies predicted that Mr. Yeltsin and the Congress were headed for compromise.

To strip Mr. Yeltsin of his power, the Congress would have to approve several constitutional amendments by two-thirds majorities, which even conservatives acknowledge are likely beyond their reach.

Mr. Yeltsin, similarly, may be unable to win the simple majority he needs to confirm Mr. Gaidar as prime minister. But his supporters say the president could refuse to nominate another candidate, keeping Mr. Gaidar in his current post of acting prime minister.

As a result, several deputies said they expected the Congress to approve a resolution attacking Mr. Gaidar's policies and calling for "corrections" while Mr. Yeltsin may add to his government a deputy prime minister more in tune with conservatives.

The brawl on Thursday centered on conservatives' desire to vote on

the constitutional amendments by secret ballot. Reformist deputies asserted that a secret ballot had been sought because many conservatives were afraid to vote openly against Mr. Yeltsin.

After a confusing and procedurally questionable vote on the matter, Mr. Khasbulatov, an unpredictable but usually conservative critic of the president, declared that Friday's votes would be secret.

About five liberal deputies, including Anstol Shabad, rushed to the podium, demanding a reconsideration. Mr. Khasbulatov then shouted into the microphone:

"I ask that I be defended from these insults! Esteemed people's deputies, defend me against these deputies!"

Mr. Shabad recalled later: "After that, quite a few burly men

rushed down there and began to push us aside."

Asked who he had tussled with, the slight Mr. Shabad, who lost his spectacles in the melee, said, "You'd better tell me who I didn't fight with."

Mr. Yeltsin's economics minister, Andrei A. Nechayev, a frequent target of the conservatives, said, "The Congress has disgraced Russia before the world."

Mafia Prosecutor Found Dead

He Left Suicide Note Denying Links to Mob

By Alan Cowell
New York Times Service

ROME — Four days after newspapers reported accusations that he had links to the Mafia, a prominent Italian public prosecutor who played a central role in imprisoning Sicilian mobsters was found dead at his home Thursday, and the police said he had apparently committed suicide.

The accusations against Domenico Signorino were based on the testimony of a Mafia turncoat and raised questions about the status of evidence provided by informers who have become the authorities' principle source of information about the mob's doings.

The charges revived a debate over the Mafia's long-suspected efforts to penetrate state institutions, including the judiciary.

The police said Mr. Signorino, 48, left a note addressed to his wife saying he was innocent. He was found dead with a gun at his side.

His death was the third reported suicide linked to the Mafia in Sicily since late last month, when an accused Mafia boss and a suspected "counselor" to one of the island's most notorious gangsters jumped to their deaths after being arrested.

The accusations against Mr. Signorino were made by Gaspare Mutolo, a Mafia informer who caused an earlier stir in October when he identified a close aide of former Prime Minister Giulio An-

dreotti as a link between the government in Rome and the mob.

Mr. Signorino had been one of the main public prosecutors at the so-called maximal trial in Palermo in 1987, when he demanded life sentences for 20 accused gangsters, and sought a 17 years for Mr. Mutolo, who has since turned state's evidence.

According to press leaks, Mr. Mutolo told investigators that Mr. Signorino was "close to certain circles I know."

Mr. Signorino had publicly rejected the charge, and told reporters: "If seeking 20 life sentences at the maximal means I am a Mafia-so, then go ahead and call me that."

The informer's accusations against him — which have not been substantiated — recalled other occasions when senior figures in the Sicilian judiciary came under suspicion of complicity with the mob. Earlier this year, another senior public prosecutor in Palermo resigned after investigators accused him of blocking their inquiries into Mafia crimes.

But the prosecutor's death Thursday also inspired debate over the disclosure of unsubstantiated allegations by Mafia informers. "Informers are very important instruments for the fight against organized crime," said a magistrate, Vladimiro de Nunzio, "but sometimes disclosures that are made without verification cause untold damage."

The death of Mr. Signorino coincided with a fresh crackdown on mobsters in the Gela area of Sicily and with renewed efforts by investigators to move not only against Mafiosi but also against politicians presumed to be in cahoots with them.

In Gela, investigators issued 96 arrest warrants for Mafia-linked activities including extortion and murder. The small seaside town in Sicily has become an emblem of the many similar towns in Sicily where, the authorities said, the Mafia has woven itself deeply into local administration.

The ties between Italy's various Mafia-linked organized crime gangs and politicians, moreover, have come under increased scrutiny since the police in southern Italy this week arrested 11 people in connection with the 1989 murder of Ludovico Ligato, the former head of the country's state railroads.

Four of the people arrested are local politicians accused of ordering the official's assassination — the first time politicians have been publicly charged with such direct involvement in gangland murder.

Russian Crime Rises 21%

MOSCOW — Russian police have registered a record 2.25 million crimes in the last 10 months, a 21 percent increase over the same period last year, the Interior Ministry reported Thursday.

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INTERNATIONAL Herald Tribune

Priority in Germany

The murders of three Turkish residents in Germany last week had the long overdue effect of provoking the kind of strong official reaction — indeed, a flurry of reactions — that local and international anti-racism forces have called for repeatedly in the past year.

activity, saying it would ban several far-right groups and seek to outlaw a variety of musical releases and concerts that are thought to incite violent behavior. The implication is troubling, if familiar from debates in America about "hate crime" legislation, which we also tend to view with skepticism: Shouldn't it be obvious to all concerned that it is already illegal to murder people or firebomb their houses?

Now It's About Steel

Steel, textiles, agriculture: Those are the three sectors that repeatedly produce the angriest of quarrels over international trade. Last month a long dispute over farm exports flared up again between the United States and Europe.

— to abolish the steel cartel and the import quotas. If foreign producers were being unfairly helped by their governments, the Bush administration said, it was up to American steel makers to prove it.

Health Care, Carefully

President-elect Bill Clinton has promised to deliver worthy health care reform legislation to the Democratic Congress in his first hundred days. Victory assured. Or is it? Managed competition — the best plan for reforming the recklessly costly health care system — is in danger of losing by winning.

work of providers. HMOs can improve care and save dollars in ways unimaginable under the present system. For example, HMOs can concentrate specialties — heart surgery in one regional hospital, prostate surgery in another — which is the best way to cut down on surgical accidents.

Bosnia: Bush Won't Rush In and Clinton Is Walking

By Leslie H. Gelb

NEW YORK — The people of Bosnia and the underboxes nearby might meditate on two realities: First, George Bush will not order U.S. forces to the rescue. Forget it. Second, Bill Clinton won't either — at least not for months. He shows little disposition to walk economics and chew foreign policy gum at the same time.

economy is right, but treading water on foreign affairs is dead wrong. His transition staff for national security cannot do the job of creating policy. It contains few experienced, high-level pros. And these pros have to spend most of their time answering ridiculous press queries about Clinton policies that don't exist, playing foot-

should be to flesh out Mr. Clinton's promising campaign rhetoric on Bosnia. He talked sensibly about providing arms to Muslims, now virtually defenseless against Serbian attacks. He hinted creatively at bombing attacks against military targets in Serbia to deter Serbs from further aggression.

tion to arm Muslims. They believe, again backed by Mr. Vance and Lord Owen, that this would only lead to greater violence and even more Muslim deaths. But there is a trade-off here: A heavy short-term price may be worthwhile to stabilize the battlefield and save lives thereafter.

Yugoslavia: Unyielding Realities, Inescapable Responsibilities

By Cvijeto Job

BELGRADE — The whole course of the Yugoslav war justifies the following conclusions: There will be no cease-fire, peace or stability in the Balkans, nor democratic rule of law in the Yugoslav lands, while the extreme nationalist forces of Serbia and Croatia and their henchmen in Bosnia are permitted to pursue their racist irredentist programs.

sie with anxious foreign diplomats, taking phone calls from panicky job-seekers and meeting with political allies to keep them from feeling excluded when the moment comes to exclude them. Sandy Berger, the leader of the transition staff, has commissioned various policy papers from able, senior people. But these papers cannot substitute for the advisers who will form the Clinton National Security Council.

identity, draining its morale and weakening its international repute. But nothing of real significance will be done until the American president settles on an overall strategic concept and states unambiguously that "ethnic cleansing," genocide and aggression cannot be permitted to succeed. These crimes strike at the foundations of any acceptable world order and threaten the security and well-being of all nations, including the United States.

all. He would spell out principles and goals of international action, including guarantees for the full rights of ethnic groups such as Serbs in Croatia, Albanians in Serbia. Such a declaration should open prospects of generous international assistance for reconstruction of devastated lands and economies. It would aim at strengthening internal opposition to the current course. All should be made aware that an inexorable ratcheting process of pressure, including military pressure, will be taking place as necessary, and all should be invited to abandon the suicidal war mania earlier rather than later.

Wanted for Germany: A Modern Citizenship

By William Pfaff

PARIS — Germany's anguish today has two causes, one political and the other cultural and historical. The political problem is that the governing and opposition parties still cannot agree to change the constitution to restrict the influx of foreigners demanding political refuge.

the crisis intensify and blame the Social Democrats for opposing constitutional change. There has also been a grave police failure, both to protect foreigners and to find and arrest the murderers and attackers of refugees (and foreign residents). The police structure in East Germany has been weak since unification, for obvious reasons, and Germany's federal government system has inhibited coordinated national action until very recently.



ten for centuries, who speak old German dialects and are totally out of touch with modern Germany, have an automatic claim to citizenship and resettlement assistance.

We the Decent People, Saying 'No'

By Flora Lewis

MUNICH — A long interview with Peter Boppel, a psychiatrist, promises to answer an old question that screams anew from the daily headlines: Why do people become torturers? Why do they kill indiscriminately? Germans, faced with the outbreak of pro-Nazi attacks on defenseless foreigners, feel uneasy again with the never answered enigma of how the heroes of the Third Reich could have happened, whether there are special kinds of people who are so inhuman or whether, as the interviewer put it, torturers are just people like you and me.

what he did, nor to wonder about the people who would give such orders. His hand but rather hands some face with wide-set eyes and large, full mouth looks enigmatic in the photograph. He is frightened, but shows no remorse. His testimony is crucial to the central question. At what point would we, the decent people, accept such orders? In what circumstances does the excuse become outrageous? In Northern Bosnia, an autonomous Caucasian republic in the south of Russia, almost all the local Yugoslav people have been chased away in the name of "ethnic cleansing," and the local cosack chief has proclaimed that they cannot come back on pain of death.

claimed independent existence as the quasi-feudal and multinational Holy Roman and Ottoman systems broke down in the 19th century. "Germany," until Napoleon's time, consisted of hundreds of more or less autonomous political entities with loose federal links to one another. The Hapsburg monarchy incorporated Hungarians, Slavs and Italians, as well as Germans. However, the German unification carried out by Bismarck, completed in 1871, rested on a conception of German nationhood that was fundamentally racial, in an old-fashioned but indispensable use of that term.

ture. Britain, the Netherlands and France, old imperial states, have readily given citizenship to people from their ex-colonies. Their norms of nationality are political and cultural, not racial. Germans today must at the minimum demand of themselves that they reign, public order is preserved, crimes are punished, and the security and human rights of refugees and foreign residents are guaranteed. German public authorities, and Germany's friends and allies abroad, must also acknowledge that the continuing huge inflow of foreigners crucially challenges received and fundamental German assumptions concerning Germany's identity and nationhood. The problem has been worsened by denying its importance. This means limiting the influx of foreigners.

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IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO 1892: Carmen at Windsor LONDON — A performance of "Carmen" was given at Windsor Castle last night (Dec. 3) by the Covent Garden Opera Company. The production was a most successful one. The house party consisted of Her Majesty, the Grand Duke and Duchess Sergius of Russia, the Duke and Duchess of Connaught and their children and a few others. The principals, the chorus and orchestra carefully attended their efforts to the acoustics of the limited auditorium. The Queen graciously expressed her entire approval of the performance, which she said was admirable. The applause was most enthusiastic. This is undoubtedly the greatest and most elaborate presentation ever given at Windsor. 1917: Bulgaria's Aim SOFIA — Premier Radoslavov has announced that Bulgaria immediately replied to Lenin's proposal for an armistice that she was ready to enter into negotiations: "Bulgaria could not reject this peace offer because it means the realization of the national idea for which she entered the war, that is, the unification of the Bulgarian nation in a single state comprising Macedonia and the countries of the Morava and the Dobruja." 1942: Japanese Losses WASHINGTON — [From our New York edition:] Nine more Japanese ships, including two cruisers or large destroyers and two troop transports, were sunk in a naval engagement north of Guadalcanal on Nov. 30, the Navy Department announced today (Dec. 4). A naval spokesman estimated that 5,000 Japanese soldiers were drowned when the two heavily laden transports were sent to the bottom. American losses during this night action were listed as one cruiser sunk and an unspecified number of other vessels damaged. Details were held back by the Navy as their disclosure would be of value to the enemy.

OPINION

Opposing Russian Visions, Across the Waiting Abyss

By William Safire

WASHINGTON — Looking down into the abyss of hyperinflation — a condition that bred totalitarianism in Germany — Russian leaders, old and new, are now deciding which economic model to follow.

One model is Western-style capitalism that couples political democracy with free markets. The Poles and Czechs, having accepted the hardship of such "shock therapy," are making this dual freedom work.

The other model is the sort of "capitalism with an inhuman face" practiced in China. This allows the old Communist elite to remain in power while permitting certain free markets to flourish.

Boris Yeltsin and his reformist right-hand man, Yegor Gaidar, want both halves of freedom enjoyed by Americans. They are opposed in Moscow by the Civic Union industrialists, who position themselves between the Yeltsin reformers and the nutty nationalists and Communists. These men want authoritarian control of politics and the economy, but with some toleration of private enterprise.

"The Chinese people feed themselves," said Arkady Volok, a longtime Andropov-Brezhnev aide, "and 1.2 billion are living a life of which we can only dream." Some dream.

Those are the two visions in collision in Moscow this week. The anti-reformers are posing as pragmatists who only want to "go slow" in moving toward a free economy. They profess concern for the human hardships in the wrenching away from their old command economy.

Some Westerners — mainly Corbophiles — are touting the Volok faction as moderate, practical and centrist, almost Clintonian in its reasonableness.

Let us not be taken in by the siren song of moderation. The anti-reformers want to stop the privatization of the huge enterprises that ought to be made competitive or shut down. They want to stop the sale of land to farmers and keep agriculture in the inefficient hands of the old collectives. Bring back price control, they say, and let bureaucrats rather than consumers decide what is produced.

In the first half of this year, reform began to take hold; private plots tripled to 20 million, and today are the bulwark against starvation.

But since July, the Russian Parliament — 87 percent Communists elected before the attempted coup — has managed to turn back the reformist clock.

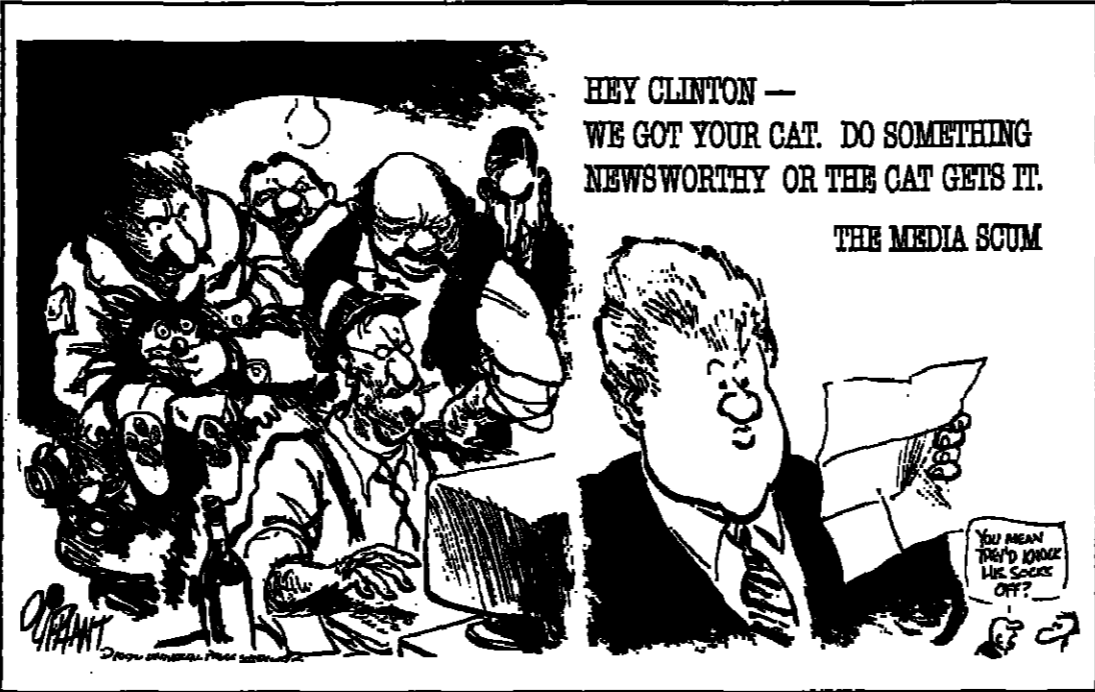
What can the West do to help Russia avert a Tiananmen economy? Western governments should reach out to the old Soviet debt, taking off a little pressure, and come through on promises of visible humanitarian aid. But private investment, joint ventures, is the answer; that will happen only as Russian reformers win their battle to establish the primacy of private property.

Mr. Yeltsin, though he bobs and weaves to avert a coup, knows this. He stopped compromising with the Volok elite on state control of the oil industry last week, decreeing privatization. The world's largest oil producer is the most inefficient; when Russia opens the profit potential to oil, world business will help Russia get back on its feet.

We should root for the amalgam of political and economic freedom. That calls for a new constitution followed by elections, and a mandate for private farms and stock ownership of industry.

Maybe Boris Yeltsin, who retains more popular support than any Russian leader, can bring it off. From the sidelines, we should at least let the Russian people know that the American model is far better than the Chinese.

The New York Times



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Neutral Eyes in the Sky

Regarding "Sell Photos, Not Satellites" (Opinion, Nov. 28):

The editorial writer fears that U.S. satellites, sold to other countries, might fall into "the wrong hands" and be used to "target missiles." It urges a "firm no" to foreigners' requests to buy high-tech reconnaissance satellites.

The answer to the threat of missile attacks is disarmament. The INF Treaty is a model, the Missile Technology Control Regime a useful stop-gap.

Disarmament requires assurance against bad surprises: unsuspected nuclear programs, treaty evasion, weapons buildup, training for offense, novel threats. Satellites peer into closed states, threaten exposure, and reassure the state keeping a watch.

The idea that states could simply buy satellite photos from Washington has two fatal flaws. These states could expect no effective coverage of the United States, or U.S. deployments abroad. And they could never be quite sure whether what they have been given is complete, and is what it is said to be.

Several autonomous surveillance capabilities, at least one sold to all comers without editing or selection, would promise a safer world, because mutual assurance would be more possible.

BRUCE D. LARKIN, Clonakilty, Ireland.

Happily Monarchical

Amid all the troubles plaguing the British royal family, there seems to be some confusion about the definition of modern monarchy. The British (and some of the French) have argued that they are democracies and therefore cannot accept monarchy. They seem to

overlook — or forget — the modern constitutional monarchies of Denmark, Norway and Sweden. It would be difficult to find more democratic nations.

In Scandinavia the monarch is the symbolic head of the land, a neutral figure who represents the constitution, never himself or herself. The monarch is a symbol around whom the whole nation can gather; he or she cannot represent only a part of the people.

In 1946, a Communist member of the Norwegian government asked King Haakon VII if His Majesty was not opposed to having a Communist in his government. "Sir," the king replied, "I am also the king of the Communists."

DAG SUNDBY, Brussels.

Women and the Church

Regarding "Only Six for Women Isn't Christian" (Opinion, Nov. 26):

Anna Quindlen's vigorous argumentation for the ordination of women in the Roman Catholic Church demands a reply in favor of caution. While discussing the ordination of women recently with Mother Teresa of Calcutta, she said: "How can a woman say, 'This is my body'?"

I offer this observation by a person who can hardly be accused of having a crabbed spirit, not in the belief that it should foreclose debate, but with the hope that it indicate a properly theological aspect to the question. Or is theology just sociology writ large?

JAMES SWETNAM, Rome.

The Soul of the Center

Regarding "Crisis at Paris's American Center" (Dec. 2) by John Rockwell:

I remember well, from my days as a

music student, the American Center of the 1960s. The building on Boulevard Raspail was nothing spectacular, but it offered work space for struggling musicians and artists, an inexpensive canteen, and a place where members could get a hot shower for one franc. Most of all, it offered plenty of good conversation and comradeship.

How times have changed! In the intervening years, we have had Reaganomics, the gimme decade, real estate as religion, and the corporatizing of America's soul. The current center's chairman says: "The building is the star... Artists will come in and go out year after year, but what's going to last is that building."

Sorry, but I beg to differ. Any institution that values cement and concrete more than people should cease pretending to be a center for the arts and for the humane values that the arts represent.

JOEL COHEN, Director, The Boston Cameraia, Newburyport, Massachusetts.

Screen the Candidates

Regarding "When a Candidate Is III" (Opinion, Nov. 27):

Perhaps a panel should be appointed before the next U.S. presidential election, consisting of a school teacher, a psychiatrist, a non-denominational minister, Jane Fonda, and a political science professor. They could test the candidates for spelling skills (Dan Quayle), ability to grasp reality (Ronald Reagan), sense of public ethics (Richard Nixon, George Bush), physical coordination (Gerald Ford), and understanding of the Washington insider system (Jimmy Carter). The results might help voters avoid past mistakes.

THOMAS G. PALAIDMA, Salzburg.

With the GIs Into Somalia

The U.S. offer to send troops into Somalia to ensure that food reach the starving people there deserves much praise. It is incumbent on the countries of Europe, and in particular the European Community, to fully support this project, particularly when they themselves were unprepared to take the initiative.

T. J. MAHER, Member of the European Parliament, Brussels.

The Eye of the Needle

Christoph Bertram, in "Germany: Change the Slogan to 'Foreigners In!'" (Opinion, Nov. 30), is slightly off on one detail: for in practice, France does not accord citizenship to children born of foreign parents simply because birth takes place in France.

I can confirm from personal experience that such children are granted French citizenship only if the parents meet, with full documentation, a number of conditions that seem to vary in contradictory fashion depending on which official source one consults. I have been told, for example, that the granting of citizenship depends partly on one parent's having been continuously employed full-time for the five years preceding the birth, which another source in the same administration denied.

After several time-consuming attempts, I have abandoned trying to obtain French citizenship for my son; his mother and I are unable to fit through the eye of the bureaucratic needle. I am American and my spouse is a non-EC West European.

VINCENT M. BLOCKER, Paris.

Mom in the Weight Room Doing Legs With Emilio

By Diana Morgan

WASHINGTON — I used to be cursed with skinny arms. Now I am such a regular at the neighborhood gym that the men there call me Terminator 3; they say I remind them of Linda Hamilton, the actress who flexed along with Arnold Schwarzenegger in "Terminator 2." What I really am is a mom who has discovered the psychic comforts of pumping iron.

I started lifting free weights a year ago after my second child was born.

MEANWHILE

Taking care of two kids under age 3 was like being trapped in a trash can with Oscar the Grouch. I needed a break. I found it in the weight room of the Capital Hill Squash and Fitness Club.

I was shy at first, and a little out of place. Most women at the club go upstairs to the stationary bicycles or over to the aerobics classes. Very few join the men in the weight room, where the light falls harshly and the floor is carpeted in black rubber. Mirrors reflect rows of chrome hand weights and pyramids of thick iron discs. Beady, half-naked men stand in front of the mirrors and heft weights the size of fire hydrants. They groan loudly and their eyes bulge.

I got over my fear by closing my eyes, gritting my teeth and pretending that I, too, had arms the size of hams. I apologized when I wanted to take a turn on a machine, and I pestered the staff with naive questions. I lifted ever larger weights and watched my muscles grow. I didn't think too much. It was exhilarating. Surrounded by the faint odor of male sweat, I learned a muscular peace that is usually off-limits to harried mothers.

Every morning now I park my 1½-year-old daughter in the gym nursery and head upstairs to the free weight room. I whip out my notebook and for each exercise record the muscle group, the weight and the number of repetitions. In the mirror my eye follows the soft curve of new muscle.

The subtlety of female anatomy impresses me. The men usually go for bulk. They strain to lift immense weights, bragging afterward about the amount of body weight they have put on. I am going for definition, a goal that requires many repetitions of a lower weight.

Still, I have learned that lifting weights is not just about developing or defining muscle. The fun is decoding the movements and finding the mental grit to lift a weight over and over.

Some days at the gym I work on my back muscles, on others my arms and chest, but the high points of the week are the leg days. Twice a week I do squats, a maneuver that entails balancing across my shoulders a pole loaded with 155 pounds (70 kilograms) and then bending and straightening my knees 20 times. As I lift the pole I feel the muscles contract

and am always surprised by how powerful they are. The weight glides effortlessly through the air. I imagine myself not as Linda Hamilton, but as Arnold himself.

By the 19th squat, my leg muscles are stricking and my heart is pounding. I only make number 20 through stupid determination. When I put down the weight I am high on adrenaline.

It is hard to find such intensity of focus taking care of children. On any afternoon in our kitchen, my daughter is climbing onto the stove, my 4-year-old son is whacking the oak table with a child's wooden croquet mallet and the phone is ringing. Usually there is lunch to be wiped off the wall, and I am preparing for a nervous breakdown.

Relief comes in the mornings. Sometimes I do legs with Emilio, one of the weight room staff. We spot each other on the weights, yanking to no great purpose, the main point being the lifting. We compare notes, but without any edge of competition. It's a male sort of experience, I think, enjoying by doing together.

With my female friends, who tend to be of an intellectual bent, we talk about our children with great intensity, peering into every crevice of their lives, analyzing each speck of childhood dust. Emilio and I listen thoughtfully to each other's stories, but much of the joy of the conversation is that, like lifting weights, it is separate from the rest of life.

I have not been able to persuade the other mothers to join me in the weight room. Like many women they are uncomfortable with their bodies. I think it takes conceit as well as discipline to stand half-naked in front of a mirror pumping iron.

And there are days when all I can see are the bags under my eyes from late nights with my daughter, or the belly not fully recovered from two pregnancies. On bad days like that, it is easier to have an aerobic instructor or a Nautilus machine take the lead.

An older lady told me in the locker room that she hated seeing women lift weights because it was so disturbing when they grunted. Emitting animal sounds and having big muscles is not considered feminine. My guess is that Linda Hamilton, who grinned and groned all the way through "Terminator 2," was acceptable only because she attacked the bad guys to save her young son. She was just a mom with muscles, swept up in a storm of maternal rage.

Sometimes when I'm lifting, a couple of men will come stand around and watch. Often one will whistle in a friendly way. Then they ask when my kids and say what a help it must be to have such strong arms with which to carry them.

Diana Morgan is a Washington writer specializing in science and women's issues. She contributed this comment to The Washington Post.



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CREATING THE RIGHT CHEMISTRY



By Christopher Petkanas

Strasbourg's Christmas Market

STRASBOURG, France—When the switch was thrown here to signal the start of the holiday season, 2.75 miles of streets strung with 38,000 feet of cable flashing 35,000 bulbs confirmed Strasbourg as France's Christmas capital.

Under all that wattage "les Strasbourgeois" will this month be illuminated in the scrupulous and contented observance of customs, rituals and traditions that reach back four centuries. For in few other European cities and nowhere else in France—not even in Paris—is Christmas celebrated with the "natural conviction, respect for ceremony, and generosity of spirit" that it is here. Strasbourg demonstrates that there is more to Christmas in France than an unearthy yule log stuck with marzipan mushrooms or a side of smoked salmon from Hédéraud.

Cut off geographically from Paris and handed savagely back and forth by France and Germany over rough oppressive centuries, Strasbourg and the easternmost province of Alsace, of which it is the capital, have their own granite identity. The proof is that even many French people find the city "dépayssant," by which they mean it has a displacing effect. They do not necessarily express this regretfully. It is just that the confluence of cultures—their own, the rustic rationalism married to high-pitched Latin emotionalism—can be a little uprooting. To a visitor with anything more profound than a Michelin green guide expect-

ence of the other principal cities of France, the difference is palpable.

A good base from which to savor the difference is the three-star Hotel Cathédrale. Its appeal lies not so much in its rooms as in its location opposite the cathedral. Longer on charm and with only a slightly less spectacular site nearby is the two-star Hotel Suisse.

For many of the people of Strasbourg,



Nativity scene by Henry Bacher.

Christmas will always be associated with the German annexation of Alsace from 1940 to 1944. During World War II the city's Christmas market was bumped from the Place Broglie by German troops needing a place to stage their military parades. The Treaty of Westphalia awarded Alsace to Louis XIV in 1648, but that has never stopped its neighbor on the other side of the Rhine from trying to possess it. Germany had taken Alsace before, from 1871, after the Franco-Prussian war, to 1918.

A year-end market in which gifts are sold has been held in Strasbourg since the 16th century, although in the early years it took place on Saint Nicholas Day, Dec. 6, not, as now, during the weeks leading up to Christmas. In 1570 a Protestant preacher virulently spoke out against the "idolatry" of the market, railing that it was meant for children to believe it was Saint Nicholas who supplied their presents, not Jesus. To appease both Protestants and Catholics, the name was changed to "Christkindelmarkt" and the date pushed closer to Christmas.

Today there are about 200 stalls spread over an acre (about four-tenths of a hectare). According to François Kuenemann, who oversees the fair, stands are handed down guardedly from one family member to another. With the death of "Le Père" Rom-

ming, a veteran seller of Christmas decorations, his booth went to his daughter, who assumes that her son will carry on after her and his children after him. In February, Romming's daughter is already traveling around Italy buying ornaments for the following season.

Tinselly of course and even vulgar, with its gaudy skewers of chocolate-dipped fruit and fresh coconut slices squirted by toy fountains, the fair offers plenty to despise. But there are also carved wooden toys from Atelier Christ, authentic Provencal creche figures from Novara, handsome mirrors from Artisanal Bambou, beeswax candles from Bernard Gil, and *couronnes de l'Avent* from the tree vendors. The fir wreath symbolizing hope is hung from the ceiling with a ribbon. Every home, every church has one.

It would be reckless to visit Strasbourg without also visiting one of the city's great food markets—watching elegant Alsatian housewives shop for their own tables as if as instructive as a class in any fancy cooking school, and free. The Kruteneu quarter is the venue for sauerkraut and all the pig parts you need to make *choucroute garnie*, Dec. 6 of Molshem the place for *foie gras au torchon*. The fattened liver of a force-fed goose wrapped in a dish cloth and cooked in bouillon, this foie gras is also on the menu at S'Geistweel in



Both illustrations are from "Noël—Wihnachte en Alsace" by Gérard Leser, Editions du Rhin.

the typically Alsatian village of Geispolsheim. Fifteen minutes from Strasbourg, the restaurant is also known for choucroute with haddock and fresh and smoked salmon, and for an atmosphere that manages to be both sophisticated and provincial.

Never shy about food, the people of Strasbourg step up their eating campaigns at Christmas, breaking for tea at Christmas, with

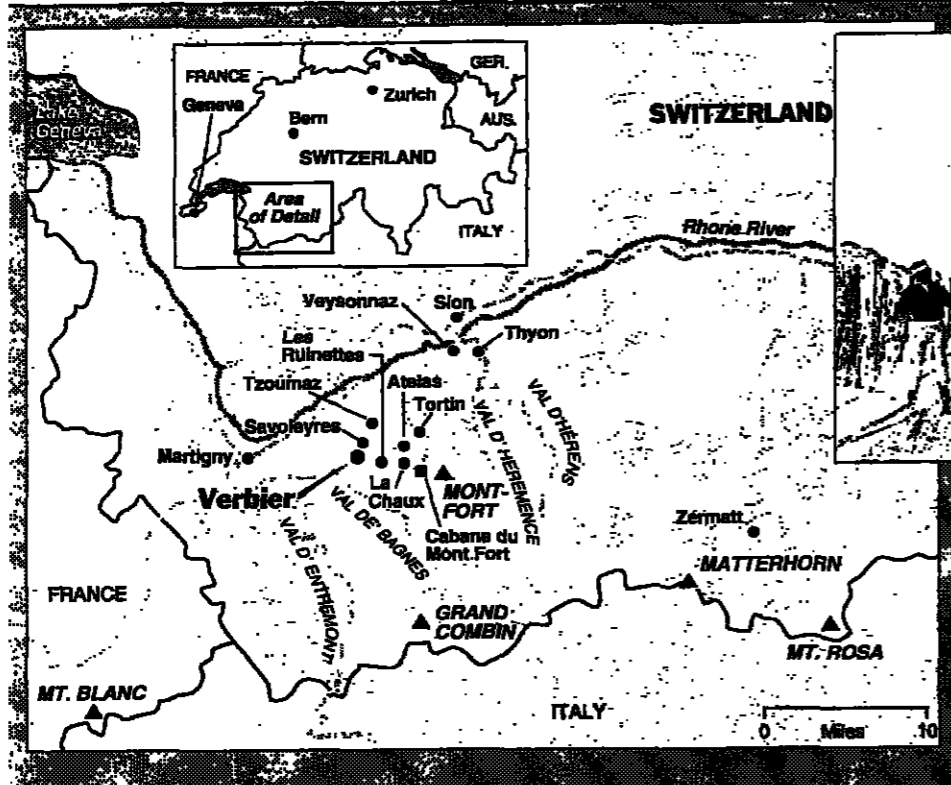
its outrageous trompe l'oeil facade of clocks and columns and cherubs, or for *chocolat viennois* at Suzel. With her sleek straw-colored hair, owner Odette Jung is straight out of an Alsatian children's book by Ulric Hansi.

Le Crocodile is the sort of stretched gastronomic temple where the waiters carry out their elaborate choreography with great precision. The silver sparkles, and nobody laughs out loud. Chef Emile Jung has earned his three Michelin stars and as many Gault-Millau toques with dishes like lamb *pot-au-feu* with red pepper butter. The restaurant also has a model wine list featuring Alsatian appellations and their best exponents: Riesling from Kienzier, Tokay from Trimbach.

"Winstubs," or wine bars, are to Strasbourg what "bouchons" are to Lyon and pubs are to London. And Chez Yvonne is to the city what Lipp is to Paris. Yvonne makes a big deal over friends while giving strangers the deep freeze. But the beef liver quenelles, or dumplings, are excellent. Le Clou, Le Tite Bouchon, Au Pont Corbeau, and Le Saint Sepulcre are wine bars that envy her success.

In the winstubs as throughout Strasbourg, the quality born of its tough history is inescapable. French is spoken in the aisles of the Christmas market; alongside the German dialect that is Alsatian, making it a city apart. Strasbourg is neither Munich in a Châtel suit nor Bordeaux in a boiled wool jacket.

Christopher Petkanas is the author of "At Home in France," a book about eating and entertaining in private French homes.



Long, challenging runs and spectacular vistas are a large part of the pleasure of skiing in Verbier in Switzerland.

THE MOVIE GUIDE

Watashi o Daito Soishite Kisu Shite
Directed by Junya Sato, Japan.

A typical young Japanese working woman, independent, adventuresome, tests positive for HIV. She knows where she got it and looks the person up only to find him in the final stages. All alone, desperate, she is

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picked up by another young man and eventually lets him sleep with her. Japan's first film about AIDS here departs from all prior educational entertainment on the subject. Yet we are not supposed to find her act reprehensible. Rather, we are to feel the further her terrible and ostracized loneliness. Also, so intended or not, we detect resemblances to other trafficking in female misery in film and tube. Like the girl with TB or the lady with leukemia she is the very stuff of home drama. The title, "Hold Me, Then Kiss Me," is one of her lines. And, sure enough, in a tear-filled finale she dies on camera, content that the young man didn't catch it nor did their resulting infant. Stereotype cinema though this is, the nature of the subject and the skill of the actress Yoko Minamino make the picture affecting. There is a dumb pop theme song and an abundance of stock scenes, but there is also a hard truth about the picture—as when she offers a well-meaning doctor a soft drink into which she has dunked her fingers and then watches the weaseling. (Donald Richie, LHT)

has time to listen to him: They are all—children, parents, friends—going through their own crises. Only a pathetic stray (Patrick Timsit) sticks to his side, a pain, but faithful to the end. Lindon and Timsit make a good pair and the minor roles are perfect with Maria Pacôme as the mother who has no time to



Costner in Jackson's "The Bodyguard."

La Crise
Directed by Coline Serreau, France.

Victor (Vincent Lindon) wakes up one morning to find that his wife has left him. But the day has just begun. Later in the morning, his boss and loyal secretary give him the shaft. Wifeless, jobless, he turns to friends, but nobody

listen because she's taking off with a young lover and Zabou as the upwardly mobile sister. Serreau has chronicled changes in sexual roles and expectations since the '70s in a series of social comedies. Success, including a Hollywood remake of "Trois hommes et un couffin," has not blunted her wit. (Joan Dupont, LHT)

protect a glamorous pop star, there lurks the potential for a compelling film noir. Frank Farmer (Kevin Costner), the bodyguard of the title, could have been a loner in a last-dance profession, terminally alienated from his own past. Rachel Marron (Whitney Houston), the glittery singer, could have been drawn tantalizingly as both treacherous vixen and damsel in distress. As written by Lawrence Kasdan in the mid-1970s, "The Bodyguard" could have capitalized on the dark elements within each principal character. It might have made a lean romantic thriller instead of the long, sprawling semi-travelogue it has become. (Janet Maslin, NYT)

Home Alone 2: Lost in New York
Directed by Chris Columbus, U.S.

Somehow, they did it again. This Christmas, the McCallister brood is Florida-bound. And, somehow, Kevin, played by the impossibly adorable Macaulay Culkin, is separated from his family at the airport. Somehow, he ends up in the Big Apple. (Daniel Stern and Joe Pesci), the bad guys from the first film, escape from prison, popping up in Manhattan to make plans for a Christmas Eve raid on a toy store. Does it matter that "Home Alone 2" has huge dead spots in it? That it never seems to get going, sputtering its way through gags that could be funnier if Chris Columbus were anything other than a second-drawer director? Nope. Mac takes care of everything. He's an irresistible phenomenon—I dare you not to love him. (Hal Hinson, WP)

Verbier: Great Views, Skiing Too

By Adele Riepe
New York Times Service

VERBIER, Switzerland—The cable car to Mont-Fort, the last link in a three-stage journey from the center of Verbier to the peak at 10,800 feet (about 3,300 meters), sways above the glacier and I catch my breath, wondering aloud to my husband if my intermediate skiing abilities are sufficient for the descent unfolding below. Two choices appear beneath me—an intermediate and an expert run—parallel, equally steep, both of them a mass of moguls, but the expert run is *instrower*.

fans will find Verbier disappointing.) The village itself is charming, although bigger than most Swiss ski resorts, with hundreds of two- and three-story chalets clinging to the mountain, many of them luxurious private homes behind a simple chalet facade. There are few boutiques; most shops are for sports clothes and equipment, and there is none of the ostentatiousness of Saint Moritz. The sporty atmosphere—skiing and hang gliding in the winter, golf and mountain biking in summer—is enhanced by the understated evening attire of its visitors, who appear to prefer turtlenecks and jeans (topped occasionally by an Armani blazer), to jewels and furs.

And the view is spectacular, stunning even the most experienced alpinists. From Mont-Fort one can see the Matterhorn, Monte Rosa, Mont Blanc, the Grand Combin and a host of other famous peaks of the French, Swiss and Italian Alps. To the south are the slopes of Verbier; farther below, the plains of the Bagnes Valley surrounded on all sides by the mountains of the Canton of Valais.

Since most of the area is well above 6,000 feet, the snow is generally reliable, and is not perturbed by the insidious mixing of artificial snow with the real stuff, which turns heavily skied areas into solid concrete. Slopes are judiciously groomed, leaving plenty of variety for the beginner or intermediate skier while the steeper runs are untouched. The runs are surrounded by vast, tantalizing areas of off-piste skiing—deep powder after a fresh snowfall, crusty and difficult at other times, acres of corn snow in the spring.

Ignoring a sign in three languages—"Caution hard snow! Only for good skiers"—I start my descent and, to my surprise, manage easily, if inelegantly, down the intermediate run. My courage bolstered, I ski the moguls all the way down the long steep slope to a schuss ending at the 200-year-old mountain refuge, the Cabane du Mont-Port, for a well-earned glass of wine and some cheese fondue. It has taken nearly 40 minutes and I am a little more than halfway to Verbier.

Two major ski areas are reached by lifts directly from Verbier. Savoleyres, at the northern part of town with wide, sunny slopes, is serviced by a gondola up to the top (7,721 feet) and a number of chairlifts and Poma lifts. There are beginner and intermediate runs and a couple of longer and more challenging ones heading down the northern face to the town of Thyon with a gondola back to the top. But the much larger and more varied area is reached by the Medran lifts rising near the Place Centrale in Verbier. The first stage consists of two gondolas and a parallel chairlift (the lift runs only during the Christmas season, February, March and Easter).

Long, challenging runs and spectacular vistas are a large part of the pleasure of skiing in Verbier. There are more than 200 miles (320 kilometers) of runs and 100 lifts on the Quatre Vallées (Four Valleys) lift ticket, the largest area in terms of lifts and runs in Switzerland. (Cross-country skiing

from the top of the Medran gondolas at Les Ruiuennes (7,216 feet) there is a choice of 25 lifts, including gondolas and chairlifts and the 150-passenger cable car, to Col des Gentianes at 9,500 feet. Another gondola goes to the Mont-Fort glacier at 10,800 feet. From the Col des Gentianes there is a spectacular expert run, long, very steep and moguled, considered by many the best run in

the region. It is serviced by a Tortin gondola. The Tortin run is also the first leg of a wonderful full day's ski circuit through the Quatre Vallées. A guide is not required as the way is clearly marked, with new, more visible signs this winter, and the runs, with the exception of the Tortin, should present no problem for the average skier. If the Tortin (classed as expert) seems too daunting, take the gondola down. After that it is all excellent intermediate skiing up and down the Valais mountains, culminating in the resort of Thyon 2000 and the World Cup run called the Fiste d'Ours.

Immediately after the lifts close Verbier's lively but not frenetic après-ski life, which is casual rather than chic or elegant, gets going. The most popular spots for drinks or coffee, just below the Medran lifts, fill up quickly: the Off-Shore, owned by a Hawaii surfing fan who serves no alcohol, where snowboards stacked out front attest to a young and very sporty crowd; the Pub Mont-Fort, which attracts the 20s to thirtysomething crowd, most of them singles, and the Rosalp bar, for the wealthier set. The best pizza is served at the always crowded Fer à Cheval, which is lively until late evening. Then the action starts at the Farm Club, a venerable disco with the wood-paneled decor of an old barn and a convivial atmosphere for all ages.

RESTAURANTS abound, from simple pizzerias to elegant haute cuisine establishments. In between there are a number of choices, none of them cheap. (Even small pizzas run about \$12.) For a good meal at a "prix fixe" price, the unassuming, cozy L'Ecurie is a local favorite, offering fresh pastas and risottos as well as assorted meat, chicken and fresh fish dishes. La Taverna, across the street, fancier, more expensive and more French, serves breast of duck in red wine, or filet of lamb with garlic.

Most visitors to Verbier stay in single chalets or apartments in one of the larger chalet buildings, most of which have a spectacular view and a sunny balcony facing south. A typical four-star, four-bed one runs for about \$950 for one week, \$1,400 for two. For those who opt for a hotel, there are eight four-star establishments. A double at the Rosalp runs \$275 to \$290 with breakfast.

Books for Stuffing Children's Stockings

By Christopher Lehmann-Haupt
New York Times Service

NEW YORK—Children "still believe in God, the family, angels, devils, witches, goblins, logic, clarity, punctuation and other such obsolete stuff," said Isaac Bashevis Singer in 1978 on receiving the Nobel Prize in Literature.

Here are some of the best children's picture books published in the United States this year.

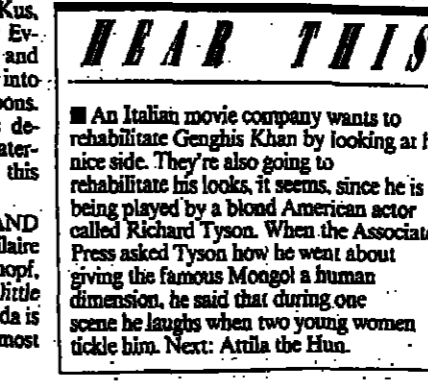
SHORTCUT, by Donald Crews (Greenwillow Books/William Morrow, \$14). It's a short-cut home along the railroad tracks, which run along a mound with ditches on either side, "surely full of snakes." They know when the passenger trains pass, but the freight trains don't run on schedule. In

mutated watercolor and gouache, Crews captures the intense excitement of a long freight train going thunderingly past you.

JUNE 29, 1999, by David Wiesner (Clarion Books/Houghton Mifflin, \$15.95). On May 11, 1999, from her home in Ho-Ho-Kus, New Jersey, an intensely serious Holly Evans, "after months of careful research and planning," launches vegetable seedlings into the sky with little baskets attached to balloons. Seven weeks later, gigantic vegetables descend. Wiesner's wonderfully detailed watercolors reveal the far-out resolution of this surrealistic fantasy.

MATILDA, WHO TOLD LIES, AND WAS BURNED TO DEATH, by Hilaree Bellon; illustrated by Posy Simmonds (Knopf, \$15). Bellon's cautionary tale about the little girl who cried "Fire!" Simmonds's Matilda is so charmingly evil-looking that you almost don't regret her incendiary demise.

THE RETURN OF FREDDY LEGRAND, by Jon Agee (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, \$15). On a lone-eagle flight to Paris, the imperishable, mustached Freddy LeGrand crashes in France and is rescued by



Sophie and Albert, a farming couple who are inspired to take up the study of aeronautics. Agee's hilarious pictures look a little as if Charles Lindbergh had been imagined by the New Yorker cartoonist Peter Arno.

MIRETTE ON THE HIGH WIRE, by Emily Arnold McCully (Putnam, \$14.95). Mirette's mother runs a successful Paris boardinghouse for acrobats, jugglers, actors and mimes. But Mirette is drawn to a secretive tightrope walker, whom she forces to teach her his art. The author's vividly colored illustrations capture a 19th-century Paris chrysepe that is charmingly suggestive of Toulouse-Lautrec.

THE WIDOW'S BROOM, by Chris Van Allsburg (Houghton Mifflin, \$17.95). Once again, the incomparable Van Allsburg invents an imaginative story, this time about a talented broom presented to a farm widow by a witch in gratitude for kindnesses rendered.

I H T S U

THE ARTS GUIDE

The Essential Brasserie

At Train Bleu, Watch the Comings and Goings

By Patricia Wells
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — If you are looking for the quintessential Parisian brasserie, you have it in Le Train Bleu, the grand, glorious, sparkling Belle Epoque restaurant decorated in 1900 in honor of the World's Fair.

The two giant dining rooms — with their eclectic, "neo-renaissance baroque" decor — are adorned with signed paintings by more than 30 provincial artists, each selected to depict the glories of his region. The paintings fill the walls, curving up onto the ceiling, and their cheeriness is particularly welcoming on gray Parisian days.

Train stations are always points of suspension and anticipation — everyone is either coming or going, so they are a no-man's-land — which makes Le Train Bleu an intriguing spot. I sometimes go especially to people-watch: gazing at the pair of chatty Germans on the adjacent banquette, wondering who that gentleman is, dining alone in the corner with his Paris Match and half-bottle of Bordeaux; studying the young, lean waiters, performing their fast-paced ballet as they rush from table to table.

The food here is more than "correct," meaning there's a good chance you'll leave satisfied, with an appetite to return another day. Try the top-quality poached Lyonnais pork sausage (direct from the Lyonnais charcuterie, Sibilla), served with warm steamed potatoes; a satisfying salad of green beans, lobster and lamb's lettuce; an acceptable salmon steak served with the tarragon-flavored Béarnaise sauce, and a fine steak tartare, prepared tableside and seasoned to your taste.

THE service is as good as one could anticipate at a place as bustling as this, although it could be a touch more personal and cheery. The dull white bread, on the other hand, desperately needs attention. The wine list offers a fair, and fairly priced, assortment of French wines, including a fine red Saint-Joseph from the wine mak-



Illustration by ART.

er Philippe Faury. The restaurant offers a 280-franc menu *très grande vitesse*, which it promises to deliver in 45 minutes, that includes foie gras, leg of lamb and dessert.

Le Train Bleu, by the way, was the legendary train that, up until the 1970s, took passengers from Paris and Calais to the blue skies of the Côte d'Azur.

If anyone can make a go of a Parisian brasserie, it should be Joël Fleury, longtime associate of France's brasserie king — Jean-Paul Bucher — best known for Brasserie Flo, La Coupole, and the group of Flo Prestige charcuteries.

After years as a leader of the Flo group, the youthful, energetic and enterprising Fleury has decided to set out on his own. He recently took over the flailing Grand Colbert. The 120-seat restaurant boasts a huge wood-and-chrome bar, giant balloon lamps, black leatherette banquettes and etched glass panels that divide the room into smaller, more intimate dining areas.

Fleury hasn't yet turned the place around, but I'd bet good

money that in six months it will be packed day and night. Le Grand Colbert still lacks that properly boisterous Parisian ambience. But the decor has promise and the menu offers great value, with a 155-franc menu that includes a first course, main course, dessert, coffee and a small carafe of wine.

The menu is traditional, but ample enough to keep most of us quite happy. If I could give one word of advice to the chef, it would be: Keep things simple and classic and leave creativity to another day. Papillon oysters were fresh and welcoming, and the simple green bean salad was fine, save for the lack of basic seasoning.

The boeuf gros sel — various cuts of beef boiled with root vegetables — was copious, with more than three pieces of beef and the delicious *quatre de boeuf* or oxtail, swimming along with varied vegetables in a decent stock. The dish, however, served in a shallow soup bowl, was almost impossible to eat. Thankfully, the chef did not tinker with the simple serving of saumon à l'unilatérale, perfectly cooked and served with wild mushrooms and a clump of spinach alongside.

DSSERTS need help: Le Grand Colbert offers the famed upside-down apple tart, tarte Tatin, as a special, but I found nothing special about a room-temperature apple tart sprinkled with sliced almonds and set in a pool of caramel sauce.

The wine list is more than satisfactory, with a 1989 Guigal Gigondas at 136 francs, a drinkable 1991 Saumur-Champigny, Réserve des Vignerons at 111 francs, and a 1991 Dubouef Julienas at 104 francs.

Le Train Bleu, Gare de Lyon, Paris 12; tel: 43.43.38.39. Open daily. Credit cards: American Express, Diners Club, Visa. Menu at 280 francs. A la carte, 300 francs.

Le Grand Colbert, 2 Rue Vivienne, Paris 2; tel: 42.86.87.88. Open daily. Credit cards: American Express, Visa. Menu at 155 francs, including wine. A la carte, about 200 francs per person.

AUSTRIA

Vienna
Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig (tel: 782.550). To Jan. 3: "Bertrand Lavier." A retrospective of the French artist's work.
Osterreichische Galerie (tel: 78.41.58.29). To Jan. 8: "Ferdinand Hodler und Wien." A selection of Hodler's masterpieces, mainly portraits and landscapes.

BELGIUM

Brussels
Musée d'Art Moderne (tel: 539.7498). To Dec. 13: "Wisdom and Compassion: The Sacred Art of Tibet." Tibetan art dating from the 9th century to the present day. Includes 150 paintings, sculptures and lapetries.
To Feb. 14: "Sickert." One hundred and thirty-four paintings commemorating the 50th anniversary of the British artist's death.

BRITAIN

London
Hullne House (tel: 831.1772). To Jan. 16: "Denny Lyon: Photo-Film 1859-1990." The first British retrospective featuring works by this American ethnographic photographer.
Royal Academy of Arts (tel: 593.7498). To Dec. 13: "Wisdom and Compassion: The Sacred Art of Tibet." Tibetan art dating from the 9th century to the present day. Includes 150 paintings, sculptures and lapetries.
To Feb. 14: "Sickert." One hundred and thirty-four paintings commemorating the 50th anniversary of the British artist's death.

CANADA

Montreal
Canadian Centre for Architecture (tel: 939.7020). To Jan. 17: "The Gates of 18th-century Montreal." Exhibition marking the city's 350th anniversary. Explores architectural development during the 18th century and features 350 plans, manuscripts, tools and artifacts, along with a scale model of the city.
Ottawa
National Gallery of Canada (tel: 980.1985). To Jan. 10: "William Kurelek." An installation celebrating the 100th anniversary of the first Ukrainian's arrival in Canada.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Prague
Národní Muzeum (tel: 269.451). To Jan. 3: "Four Generations of Polish Designers." Set designs and costumes by artists such as T. Rozzkowska, J. Kosinski, M. Kolodziej and A. Majowski.
Brno
L'Espece Suffren (tel: 47.34.09.34). To Dec. 20: "David Hamilton: 25 Years of an Artist." An exhibition of photographs simultaneous with the publication of the artist's book of the same name.
Jeu de Paume (tel: 47.03.12.50). To Jan. 31: "Marial Reyse." A retrospective of the neorealist's films and videos.
Musée Picasso (tel: 42.71.25.21). To March 1: "Corpe Crucies." A survey of 30 of Picasso's works, executed between 1882 and 1959, which center on the crucifixion.

DENMARK

Humblebeek
Louisiana Museum of Modern Art (tel: 42.19.07.19). To Jan. 3: "Pierre Bonnard." Retrospective of the works of the French painter.

FRANCE

Hazebrouck
Musée Hazebrouck (tel: 28.41.88.00). To Dec. 31, 1994: "Dialogues 1." Large collection of 17th-



"Anietta and Mona," from David Hamilton's book; inset: "Kurt Vonnegut," in Karsh exhibition in New York.

century Dutch paintings by the likes of Bosch, Rubens and Brueghel.

Marseille
Musée de Marseille (tel: 91.56.25.38). To Jan. 17: "Gaetano Paece." An exhibit of five new glass-working techniques.

GERMANY

Frankfurt
Shirn Kunsthalle (tel: 299.88.20). To Feb. 10: "Gabriele Moller." A retrospective of the German painter who was at one time married to Kandinsky.
Welfen Rhein
Ultra Design Museum (tel: 702.200). To March 28: "Miniaturen." A series of classical miniatures which exemplify furniture design over the past few decades.
Jakarta
World Trade Center (tel: 521.1125). To Feb. 28: "Raksasa." Indonesian sculptures executed between the 10th and 20th centuries.

IRELAND

Dublin
The Irish Museum of Modern Art (tel: 718.666). To Jan. 10: "John Heartfield." Photomontages which critique the rise of Hitler and right-wing ideologies in Germany and elsewhere. Includes a reconstruction of the first De Da room, exhibited in 1920.

ISRAEL

Jerusalem
The Israel Museum (tel: 708.811).

JAPAN

Kitakyushu
Kitakyushu Municipal Museum of Art (tel: 093.882.7777). To Jan. 24: "Henry Moore Exhibition: 'Intime.'" Two hundred and fifty of the artist's works.
Tokyo
Gotoh Museum (tel: 3703.0661). To Dec. 25: "Tea Ceremony Utensils." Sixty items by the Momoyama/Edo period tea masters Sen Rikyu and Kobori Enshu.

NETHERLANDS

Amsterdam
Van Gogh Museum (tel: 570.5200). To Dec. 25: "Glasgow 1900: Art & Design." More than 100 paintings, drawings and crafts from artists of the Glasgow School.
Barcelona
Fundació Joan Miró (tel: 329.1906). To Jan. 10: "Gilbert and George: The Cosmological Pictures." Twenty-five large-format pieces produced by this pair of British

NETHERLANDS

artists who started working together in the '60s.
Basel
Museum für Antike Kunst und Ludwig Sammling (tel: 271.22.02). To March 28: "Paradesos: Representations of Animals from Ancient Persia in the P. Suter-Dursteiler Collection." Sculpture from diverse provinces and different epochs of ancient Iranian civilization.

UNITED STATES

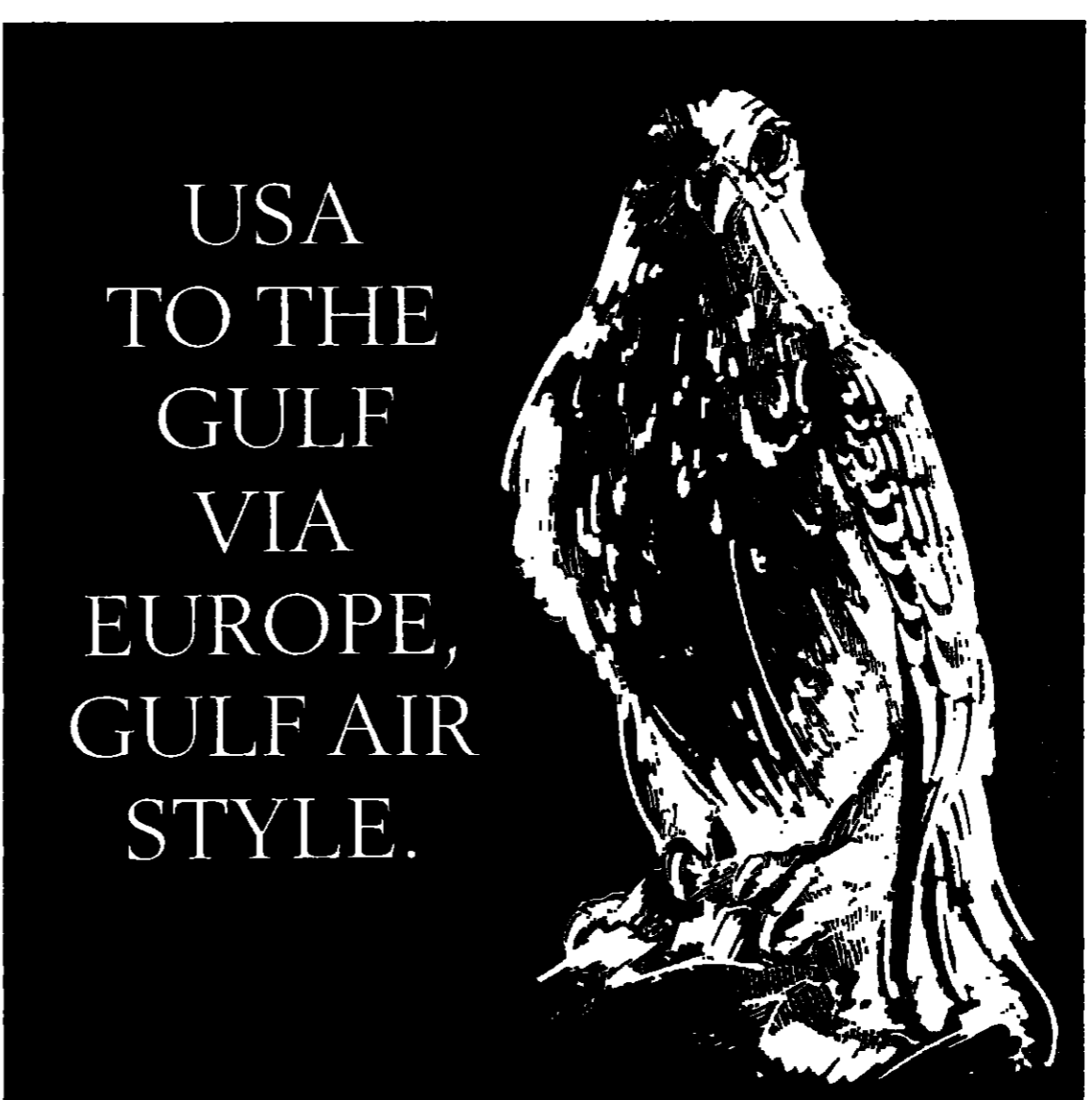
New York
International Center of Photography (tel: 768.4682). To Jan. 24: "Karsh: American Legends." Illuminates legends such as Helen Hayes, Jasper Johns, H. Norman Schwarzkopf and Leonard Bernstein through black-and-white and color photographs.
The Jewish Museum (tel: 399.33.91). To Dec. 20: "Convivencia: Jews, Muslims and Christians in Medieval Spain." Medieval manuscripts, textiles, ceramics and metalwork.
Washington
National Museum of the American Indian (tel: 357.2700). To Jan. 24: "Pathways of Tradition." More than 100 baskets, blankets, cradleboards and headdresses, which culturally represent Indian tribes from North, South and Central America.

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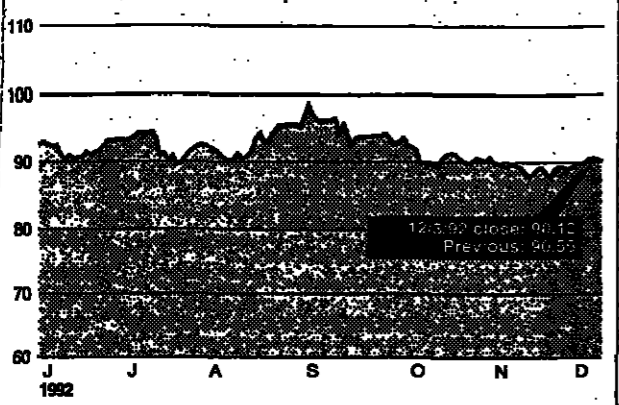


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Table with 3 columns: Asia/Pacific, Europe, N. America. Includes sub-tables for Industrial Sectors like Energy, Utilities, Finance, Services.

For readers desiring more information about the International Herald Tribune World Stock Index, a booklet is available...

German Solidarity a Kohl Solo Act

By Brandon Mitchener International Herald Tribune

FRANKFURT — A nebulous "solidarity pact" championed by Chancellor Helmut Kohl...

But the so-called Solidarity pact, which is supposed to be unveiled by Christmas...

Indeed, though the pact started out as a broad plea for mutual sacrifice by federal, state and local governments...

Analysts said that two union wage settlements this week — by insurance workers and steel workers — gave hope for wage restraint...

The idea for a solidarity pact harks back to the postwar consensus between employers and the employed...

Initially, Mr. Kohl said he would be willing to increase government aid to East German industry if unions agreed to slow the pace of wage equalization.

Germany Backs Trade Deal

International Herald Tribune

BONN — As President François Mitterrand of France arrived Thursday for two days of talks with Chancellor Helmut Kohl...

Germany said that it considered liberalizing world trade more important than protecting farmers.

The economics minister, Jürgen Möllemann, told German radio, "It would be very problematic, if on top of a recession that has hit most of the world, we also fell into a trade war that would drastically reduce our chances of ending this recession."

But French and German officials said they had agreed to postpone discussion of the trade issue until after the European Community summit on Dec. 11 and 12, allowing EC leaders to focus on other problems.

Dieter Vogel, chief spokesman for Mr. Kohl, said the leaders' initial two-hour talks focused on speedy ratification of the Treaty on European Union, on EC finances and on expansion of the Community.

The president and the chancellor agreed that negotiations with potential candidates for membership in an expanded EC should begin early next year and be completed by the end of the year, he said.

In Hong Kong, Stocks Teeter on Precipice's Edge

International Herald Tribune

LONDON — Following the steep sell-off Thursday on the Hong Kong stock market, investors in Europe and North America held on to their nerve and their shares...

The Hong Kong stock market benchmark indicator, the Hang Seng index, collapsed 8.0 percent in its third day of panic trading.

Analysts outside the colony appeared less convinced than many in Hong Kong that the damage would be long-term, although outside analysts were not exactly sanguine.

Things are at a fairly critical point, said Chris Mitchell, head of the Far East desk at James Capel in London. He and others see the 4,800 level on the Hang Seng index as a crucial support point...

Given that the Hang Seng stood at 4,978.21 at Thursday's close, that does not allow a huge margin of safety. It is especially troubling given the fact that the market dropped by 433 points on Thursday...

Since it hit a record high of 6,740.83 three weeks ago, the Hang Seng has dropped by 23 percent. On the other hand, volatility is a long-established fact of life in the Hong Kong market.

Outside the colony, the common assumption is that Hong Kong's ever-pragmatic business leaders will simply rein the new governor in. After all, it is argued that even if he did persist in his efforts to bring a greater degree of democracy to Hong Kong, there could be no guaranty that it would be sustained after the Union Jack is lowered for the last time, in 1997.

Similarly, outsiders see Beijing as having only limited room to maneuver. Nervous investors seeking alternative homes for their funds face a quandary. In the early autumn, the Hong Kong market benefited from money being pulled out of Japan...

Many analysts point out that not only are Hong Kong's blue-chip European investors having largely stood pat while there were reports of scattered buying from American pension funds smelling an opportunity, and some selling from Japan.

It may be a horrendous ride in the meantime, but it is hard to ignore places whose economies are growing as fast as Hong Kong's, said Bill McBride, international editor at Lipper Analytical Services, a firm that monitors investment funds in New York.

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Gutfreund To Pay SEC \$100,000

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

WASHINGTON — John H. Gutfreund, the former chairman of Salomon Inc., agreed Thursday to pay \$100,000 and never again run a Wall Street firm...

Mr. Gutfreund and two other former top Salomon officials settled federal civil charges that they failed to adequately supervise the firm's brokerage unit, which has admitted making bogus bids in Treasury auctions.

Richard C. Breeden, chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, said the settlements marked the first monetary fines ever imposed on securities industry officials for failing to supervise a firm's activities.

Along with Mr. Gutfreund, Salomon's former president, Thomas Strauss, was barred from the industry for six months and fined \$75,000. Former vice chairman John Meiswether was barred for three months and fined \$30,000.

None of the men, who were forced out after the scandal came to light in August 1991, admitted or denied wrongdoing.

The three were charged with failing to supervise Paul W. Mozor, the former head of Salomon Brothers' government trading desk, after learning in April 1991 that he had submitted a false \$3.15 billion bid in a Feb. 21, 1991, Treasury auction.

During the time when Mr. Mozor was violating the auction rules, "senior management knew of the problem and chose to do nothing," Mr. Breeden said.

Salomon has blamed Mr. Mozor for the wrongdoing. "The SEC's long investigation has established that the Salomon Brothers over which I presided was an honest firm that was severely victimized by the inexcusable misconduct of an isolated individual," Mr. Gutfreund said in a statement.

(AP, Bloomberg)

Suitors in Duel for Qantas

International Herald Tribune

SINGAPORE — If British Airways PLC makes its expected bid next week for a 25 percent stake in Qantas Airways Ltd. of Australia, it will be offering to bring the airline into a global alliance that would pose a challenge to many other carriers...

Analysts said that such an alliance would provide greater long-term benefits to Qantas than any deal Singapore Airlines, known as SIA, is likely to put forward on Dec. 9.

They say that while SIA wants to work more closely with Qantas to expand the services of both airlines without engaging in cut-throat competition, its interests are essentially competitive and defensive.

The prospect of a marriage between British Airways, one of the world's largest and most profitable carriers, and Qantas, a leading player in Asia-Pacific aviation, "strikes fear into the hearts of senior SIA executives," said Colin M. Gibson, publisher and executive editor of Asian Aviation magazine.

If British Airways is successful in its bid and forges an effective commercial link with Qantas it would create two "very tough competitors" for SIA, said Peter Harrison, managing director of BDW Aviation Services, an airline consultancy based in Sydney.

He added that because there is "greater commonality of interest" between British Airways and Qantas than between SIA and the Australian carrier, this would result in "a stronger product package."

While SIA and Qantas are rivals in the Asia-Pacific aviation market, British Airways is weak in Asia and strong in Europe and across the Atlantic to North America where Qantas has little presence.

This complementary match would be enhanced if BA's proposal to form a code-sharing alliance with USAir Group Inc. was approved by U.S. authorities later this month.

Under code-sharing, allied airlines continue to fly as separate carriers but coordinate schedules so they can pass connecting passengers to each other as though they were traveling on the same service.

See QANTAS, Page 13

GM Identifies 9 Plants to Be Closed

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

DETROIT — General Motors Corp., moving to stem massive losses in its North American car operations, on Thursday announced the shutdown of nine U.S. and Canadian plants affecting nearly 18,000 workers.

GM announced last December plans to close or consolidate 21 assembly and parts plants by late 1995, including six assembly plants, four engine plants and 11 component plants.

GM also will close parts plants in Kalamazoo, Michigan; Syracuse, New York; Euclid, Ohio; Trenton, New Jersey; Livonia, Michigan; and Sioux City, Iowa.

GM also said it would either sell or close its rear-axle operations in St. Catharines, Ontario, by late 1993. It also will accelerate the previously announced shutdown of a casting plant at the same site to the fall of 1994 from the spring of 1995.

GM's North American vehicle operations have lost about \$15 billion since 1990, including about \$3 billion on a pretax basis through the first nine months of this year.

Dissatisfaction with the pace of GM's downsizing and its continued losses led to the resignation under fire of Chairman Robert C. Stempel in October.

Separately, Robert J. Eaton was elected chairman of Chrysler Corp. on Thursday, replacing Lee A. Iacocca, who is retiring.

Mr. Eaton, 52, was also elected chief executive by the board of directors. The changes take effect Jan. 1.

The selection had been expected.

WALL STREET WATCH Environmental Industry: A New Chance to Clean Up

By John Holusha New York Times Service

NEW YORK — The passing of the Bush administration and the likely demise of its regulation-diluting Council on Competitiveness are generally considered good news for companies in the environmental business, analysts say.

"We are clearly going to see more enforcement of regulations in the new administration, more hazardous-waste cleanup and maybe more funding for waste-water plants," said Vishnu Swarup, an analyst at Prudential Securities Research. "The industry has been down for the last two years as a result of the economic recession and lax regulation, he said.

Grant Ferrier, editor of the newsletter Environmental Business Journal, said growth in the environmental industry slowed sharply in the 1990s after gaining at a 20 percent annual rate for most of the 1980s. Growth was 10 percent in 1990 and 2 percent last year, he said.

Now the San Diego-based publication is projecting a return to higher growth. Revenues in the industry are expected to grow to \$174 billion by 1996, from about \$120 billion currently. That is \$28 billion more than the Environment Business Journal estimates the industry would have generated under a second Bush term.

During the recession, recycling in general was hurt because the price of new materials went down. The unexpectedly slow growth of recycling may help companies that collect and dispose of solid waste, argues Marc Sulam, an analyst with Kidder, Peabody & Co.

Mr. Sulam is recommending Waste Management Inc., which is involved in so many areas that it has been called the "mutual fund of the environmental industry," and Browning Ferris Industries.

Other companies mentioned as good environmental plays include Sanofi, Midamerica Waste Systems, Rollins Environmental Services and Chemical Waste Management.

Mr. Swarup, too, said he liked Waste Management and Browning Ferris, saying their stock prices should appreciate as higher tipping fees at landfills add to earnings. He said he expected Waste Management's shares to rise 15 to 20 percent over the next two to three years. The stock closed Thursday at \$40.75.

Browning Ferris may have even more upside potential, Mr. Swarup said. The stock closed at \$25.625 Thursday.

The end of the Bush years is considered good news.

CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES. Table with columns for Cross Rates, Eurocurrency Deposits, Key Money Rates, and Forward Rates.

IFINT Société Anonyme. Registered Office: Luxembourg - 2, Boulevard Royal R.C. Luxembourg B-6734. NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS Payment of Interim Dividend.

VACHERON CONSTANTIN GENEVA SINCE 1755. Image of a luxury watch.

MARKET DIARY

Broad Market Rises As Blue Chips Fade

NEW YORK — Blue-chip stocks fell for a third straight session Thursday on Wall Street, while the broader market headed higher with help from signs of an economic recovery.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 9.72, to 3,276.53, although...

N.Y. Stocks advancing issues on the New York Stock Exchange outnumbered decliners by a small margin.

A couple of stocks weighed down the Dow industrials, said Dale Tills, manager of institutional equities trading at Charles Schwab Corp.

The Nasdaq index of over-the-counter stocks rose 3.44, to a record 656.35, and the Dow Jones transportation average, benefiting from weak oil prices, gained 9.06, to 1,435.91.

The market shook off a big slide in stocks of oil and retail store companies. Oil issues, led by Atlantic Richfield and Pennzoil, fell amid jitter about a 14 percent drop in crude prices since early October. Retailers' stocks declined following the release of modest sales gains for November.

"People are starting to worry about profits again," said Hugh Johnson, chief investment strategist at First Albany Corp.

"The market seems to have stopped so people can catch their breath and wait for the release of the November employment report," Mr. Johnson said. The government's monthly employment report is due out Friday morning.

Unless the Labor Department reports an increase of more than 100,000 non-farm jobs, I think the report will be perceived as a disappointment by the stock market," he added.

The government released some optimistic economic news Thursday, including a 1.7 percent gain in factory orders in October, the biggest rise in four months.

NationsBank was the most-active issue on the New York Stock Exchange, unchanged at 50 1/2. It shares changed hands as brokerage firms expected trades related to the bank's upcoming dividend payment.

Glaxo Holdings was second, up 2 1/2 to 26 1/2 on reports it received government approval for a new migraine drug.

Advanced Micro Devices was third, slumping 1 1/4 to 16 1/4. Intel said Wednesday a California judge ruled that AMD could not use the computer language in Intel's microprocessors in its versions of Intel chips. Intel was up 4 to 77 1/4 in active over-the-counter trading.

Dollar Awaits Jobs Data As ERM Calms Down

NEW YORK — The dollar drifted higher on Thursday in trading subdued by the approach of the U.S. employment report for November.

The dollar closed nearly a penny higher, at 1.5830 Deutsche marks, compared with 1.5740 DM at Wednesday's close.

"The dollar's spent nearly all week pegged at this 1.58 level and the jobs report is the best chance it has of breaking free," said a head of foreign exchange at a U.S. bank in London.

The dollar also moved up to 124.67 yen from 124.42, to 1.4135 Swiss francs from 1.3965 and to 5.3875 French francs from 5.3653.

The pound, buoyed by the return of calm to the European exchange-rate mechanism, rose on the cross against the dollar, too, to \$1.5640 from \$1.5525.

The French franc enjoyed a respite from recent pressure, and after the turmoil of the past week, speculators also retreated from attacking weaker currencies in the rate mechanism after France and Germany.

The U.S. government reported that factory orders had risen 1.7 percent in October and that weekly obituary claims had declined by 12,000.

As for the German economy, Thursday's story was dismal data on gross domestic product, unemployment and output. The effect was to reignite rate cut hopes that investors had shelved earlier in the week.

Oil Prices Lose More Ground

NEW YORK — Oil prices dropped to a nine-month low Thursday, as traders continued to drop their bids for crude based on industry and government figures showing a surge in U.S. oil inventories, brokers said.

New York's January light sweet crude contract settled down 37 cents per barrel at \$19.08 a barrel.

Figures from the American Petroleum Institute and the U.S. Department of Energy confirmed that the U.S. supply of crude oil, gasoline and distillate fuel grew during the week ended Nov. 27.

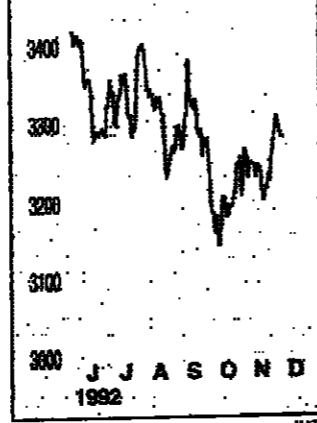
OPEC has not convinced traders that its newly set output ceiling can arrest the worldwide decline in oil prices, analysts said.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Table with columns for Market, Index, High, Low, Close, Change. Includes sections for Amsterdam, Brussels, Frankfurt, Johannesburg, London, Madrid, Milan, Sao Paulo, Singapore, Stockholm, Toronto, Zurich.

The Dow

Daily closings of the Dow Jones industrial average



Dow Jones Averages

Table with columns for Index, High, Low, Close, Change. Includes Industrial, Financial, Composite, NYSE, AMEX, and Dow Jones Bond Averages.

NYSE Most Actives

Table with columns for Symbol, Vol., High, Low, Last, Chg.

AMEX Stock Index

Table with columns for Index, High, Low, Close, Change.

AMEX Most Actives

Table with columns for Symbol, Vol., High, Low, Last, Chg.

Dow Jones Bond Averages

Table with columns for Index, High, Low, Close, Change.

NYSE Diary

Table with columns for Index, High, Low, Close, Change.

AMEX Diary

Table with columns for Index, High, Low, Close, Change.

NASDAQ Diary

Table with columns for Index, High, Low, Close, Change.

S&P 100 Index Options

Table with columns for Symbol, Bid, Ask, Last, Chg.

EUROPEAN FUTURES

Table with columns for Symbol, High, Low, Close, Change.

GERMAN GOVERNMENT BOND (LIPPE)

Table with columns for Symbol, High, Low, Close, Change.

Metals

Table with columns for Symbol, High, Low, Close, Change.

Stock Indexes

Table with columns for Symbol, High, Low, Close, Change.

Financial

Table with columns for Symbol, High, Low, Close, Change.

Spot Commodities

Table with columns for Symbol, High, Low, Close, Change.

Dividends

Table with columns for Symbol, Dividend, Ex-Dividend Date.

Special

Table with columns for Symbol, Dividend, Ex-Dividend Date.

U.S. FUTURES

Table with columns for Symbol, High, Low, Close, Change.

Grains

Table with columns for Symbol, High, Low, Close, Change.

Livestock

Table with columns for Symbol, High, Low, Close, Change.

Metals

Table with columns for Symbol, High, Low, Close, Change.

Food

Table with columns for Symbol, High, Low, Close, Change.

Financial

Table with columns for Symbol, High, Low, Close, Change.

U.S. Outlook Continues to Brighten

NEW YORK (Combined Dispatches) — More signs of a slowly improving U.S. economy were reported Thursday in manufacturing and the labor market.

The national level of unemployment claims totaled 362,000 and has been trending downward for two months from the recession level of 400,000.

The factory-orders figure was boosted by a monthly increase of almost 20 percent for transportation equipment, a volatile sector including automobiles and jet aircraft.

Excluding transportation, factory orders decreased 0.6 percent, after rising 2.2 percent in September. The slowly improving trend was also distorted by defense orders, which shot up 41.3 percent in October after dropping 20 percent the month before.

Meanwhile, the largest U.S. retailers Thursday reported modest sales gains in November, with department and specialty stores doing as well or better than discounters in a sign of consumer confidence may be reviving.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the largest U.S. retailer, said its November sales jumped 23 percent from year-earlier levels. Sears said its sales rose 5.9, and Kmart Corp. reported its sales increased 6.5 percent.

Martin Marietta, Pratt in Engine Deal

WASHINGTON (WP) — Martin Marietta Corp. has reached an initial agreement with Pratt & Whitney to manufacture jet-engine components, a deal that could be worth \$1 billion over 10 years.

The deal could be a major blow to the \$2 billion-a-year business of manufacturing thrust reversers, sections of jet engines used to slow planes as they land on runways, and nacelles, which are jet engine casings.

In this latest agreement, Pratt & Whitney chose Martin Marietta to build thrust reversers and nacelles for its PW-4000 engine, used in wide-body Airbus Industrie and McDonnell Douglas jets.

Westinghouse Adopts Bylaw Changes

PITTSBURGH (UPI) — Westinghouse Electric Corp. said Thursday that its board had unanimously adopted a series of bylaw changes proposed by management.

Under the measures, the board established a new nominating and governance committee composed of only independent outside directors. Also, after their current terms expired, all directors will be elected on an annual basis.

In addition, the shareholder-rights plan, commonly referred to as a "poison pill," has been rescinded. The board also formally expressed its continuing confidence in Chairman Paul E. Lego to successfully implement the financial and strategic plan for the troubled company.

For the Record

Philip Morris Cos. said it would buy a 7.9 percent interest in Fomento Economico Mexicano SA, Mexico's leading beverage company, from Citicorp International Holdings Inc.; terms were not disclosed.

Sandoz Pharmaceuticals Corp. agreed to pay Scripps Research Institute more than \$300 million over a decade in exchange for first rights to drug discoveries by the center's scientists.

The National Association of Securities Dealers will spend \$100 million to upgrade its Nasdaq computerized trading system through 1997.

Morrison Knudsen Corp. said it received a \$100 million contract to design and make 50 new-generation Viewliner cars for Amtrak.

TWA has won an extension of its exclusive right to file a reorganization plan. U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge Helen S. Balick granted the extension through Jan. 12 after lawyers for TWA and its unsecured creditors told her negotiations on the plan were progressing.

Table with columns for Index, High, Low, Close, Change. Includes sections for SP COMP. INDEX (S&P), MUNICIPAL BONDS (CBT), NYSE COMP. INDEX (NYSE), EURO DOLLARS (MM), and Commodity Indexes.

EUROPE

German Economy Shrinks

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
BONN — Pressured by the budget deficit and battered by high interest rates, the economy in Western Germany contracted 0.5 percent in the third quarter, as factory output fell and unemployment grew.

quarter of 1991. Measured by gross national product, which includes overseas holdings, the economy contracted 1.5 percent quarter-to-quarter and was the same size as a year earlier.

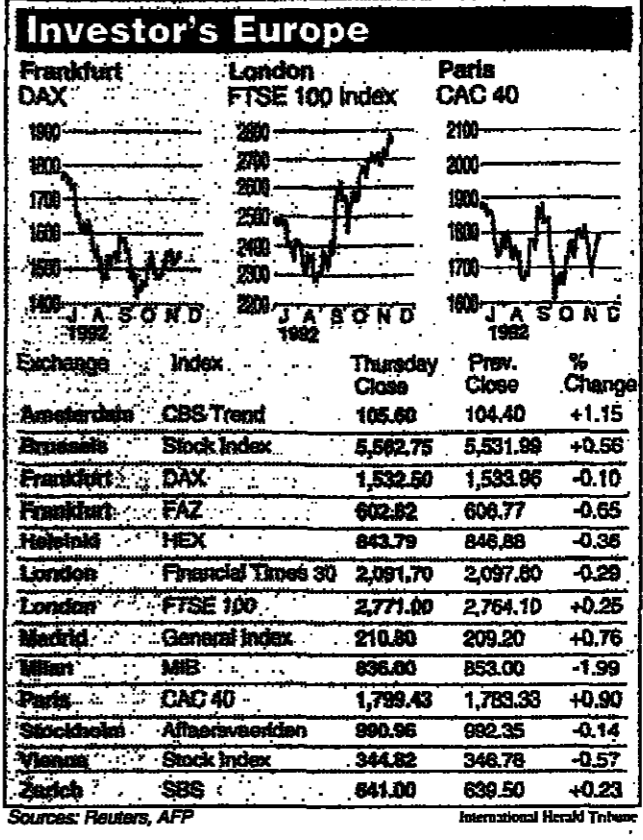
16,200 Jobs To Go at U.K. Post Office

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
LONDON — The British Post Office said Thursday it would shed 16,200 jobs over the next five years to increase efficiency.

Pillsbury's Slide Hurts Grand Met

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches
LONDON — Grand Metropolitan PLC on Thursday reported a 5.1 percent fall in annual profit, saying bumper vegetable crops and recession had squeezed earnings at its U.S.-based Pillsbury food business.

performance from the Green Giant division, a part of Pillsbury. Profit at the foods division fell 16 percent from a year earlier, to £210 million, pulled down by the problems at Green Giant, weak demand and a price war in the sector.



QANTAS: Suitors in Duel

Continued from first finance page
400 million Australian dollars (\$273.2 million).

SOLIDARITY: Kohl Struggles

Continued from first finance page
one in Hungary, also cited cheaper labor as a motivation.

Eric, an economist at Schröder Münchmeyer Hengst, told Reuters. "But it gives a clear indication of the general trend. The balance of power has tipped in favor of the employers."

Commerzbank Profit Up

FRANKFURT — Commerzbank AG reported Thursday a strong increase in profit over the first 10 months of the year, but tempered that by telling investors not to count on a richer dividend.

Hanson Profit Up Despite Recession

LONDON — Hanson PLC said Thursday that its profit rose 9.2 percent in its fourth quarter, despite the recession.

Table of international fund listings including ABC INVESTMENT & SERVICES CO (E.C.), BROADWAY INTERNATIONAL FUND, and various regional and global equity and bond funds.

Table of international fund listings including INTERNATIONAL FUNDS, GROWTH PORTFOLIO, and various global equity and bond funds.

Table of international fund listings including Other Funds, GROWTH PORTFOLIO, and various global equity and bond funds.

Taiwan Leaders Find Signs of Strengthening Ties With Washington

TAIPEI — Government and academic figures here said the visit to Taiwan by Trade Representative Carla A. Hills of the United States that ended Thursday was a sign of strengthening ties with Washington. Mrs. Hills made the first visit to Taiwan by a cabinet-level U.S. official in 13 years. Although her trip was ostensibly to pressure Taiwan to open its markets, government officials said her meetings with President Lee Teng-hui and Foreign Minister Frederick Chien were breakthroughs.

Western Style Adds Allure To NTT Bond

Bloomberg Business News TOKYO — Nippon Telegraph & Telephone Corp. sold a bond Thursday under a system relatively new to Japan, and investors are snapping it up, bond traders said. The issue is the second NTT bond sold under a Western-style pricing system that more accurately mirrors market conditions than the traditional Japanese system.

China Calls Firms to Account World Norms Are Imposed on State Sector

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches BEIJING — The Chinese government announced Thursday that it would adopt international accounting standards for state-run businesses in an effort to give foreigners a clearer picture of China's opaque corporate finances. The new regulations, which mandate that enterprises use such basic tools as balance sheets, income statements and cash-flow statements, will eventually give foreign investors the "actual financial position" of their Chinese partners.

public accountants, all of whom will have to go through extensive retraining, Mr. Liu said. But the new laws, scheduled to go into trial operation on July 1, 1993, will be difficult for the CPAs and almost 9 million other poorly trained financial administration personnel to effectively implement and enforce the regulations. Mr. Liu admitted that it would take years to train adequate numbers of qualified CPAs, saying the Finance Ministry planned to have 100,000 by the year 2000.

general reform of enterprise management, which has let the state-run enterprises run up huge debts and created piles of unwanted goods. Mr. Liu said the new rules made five major changes. Regulations that previously allowed different accounting methods for different parts of the country, different kinds of enterprises and different economic sectors would all be standardized. For the first time, regulations will formally recognize the concept of capital and registered capital of an organization. Enterprises will be able to choose their own method for depreciating fixed assets on the books, according to their own situations.

Investor's Asia table with columns for Exchange, Index, Thursday Close, Prev. Close, % Change. Includes data for Hong Kong, Singapore, Tokyo, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, Seoul, Taipei, Manila, Jakarta, and New Zealand.

- Very briefly: • Perusahaan Otomobil Nasional Bhd., or Proton, the Malaysian state-controlled carmaker, said pre-tax profit for the six months to Sept. 30 fell 36 percent to 130.46 million ringgit (\$51.4 million).

Astra's White Knight Rides a Political Horse

JAKARTA — Reports that a timber tycoon plans to take over Indonesia's PT Astra International are generally seen as bad news that would give the conglomerate an unwelcome political tinge, brokers said on Thursday. The Soeryadjaya family is being forced to sell control in Astra, whose main business is vehicle assembly, to bail out another family business, the Summa Group, which is thought to have debts of at least \$600 million.

3 Firms Get Malaysia Phone Contract

KUALA LUMPUR — Nokia Oy of Finland, Alcatel Alsthom of France and Japan's Fujitsu Ltd. have won contracts as part of a 2 billion ringgit (\$787 million) telephone-switching deal, Finance Minister Anwar Ibrahim said Thursday. Mr. Anwar said the contracts to install digital exchange lines were awarded by state-controlled Telekom Malaysia Bhd. after the three companies met conditions imposed by authorities.

NYSE

Thursday's Closing Tables include the nationwide prices up to the closing on Wall Street and do not reflect late trades elsewhere. Via The Associated Press

NYSE High-Low Stock table with columns for Div, Yld, PE, 52 Wk High, 52 Wk Low, Last Sale, Chg.

NYSE High-Low Stock table with columns for Div, Yld, PE, 52 Wk High, 52 Wk Low, Last Sale, Chg.

NYSE High-Low Stock table with columns for Div, Yld, PE, 52 Wk High, 52 Wk Low, Last Sale, Chg.

REPUBLIC OF LEBANON REHABILITATION OF THE POWER SECTOR PRE QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS

For the rehabilitation of power, transmission and distribution facilities throughout Lebanon, the Republic of Lebanon has received a joint US\$ 110 million loan from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, US\$ 30 million equivalent from the Italian Government, and has applied for a US\$ 175 million from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), part of which will be applied towards the costs of rehabilitation. Negotiations are underway with other donors to secure additional funding.

- It is intended that the proceeds of the above loans will be applied to payments to prequalified contractors under contracts to be awarded for the following work packages: • overhaul, repair and retrofitting of boilers, steam turbines and auxiliaries of the power stations of Zouk (3 x 140 MW and 1 x 170 MW), and Jieh (2 x 60 MW and 3 x 69 MW);

The works will be executed under the supervision of consultants appointed by Electricite du Liban/CDR under donors guidelines.

Due to the critical and urgent nature of the work packages the times allowed for bid preparation and, later, implementation at the works will be kept to a minimum. Therefore only contractors who are capable of working under tight schedules and controls need apply for prequalification and such ability will be expected to be demonstrated during the prequalification exercise. Reasons for not prequalifying any firm or consortia need not be given and no costs associated in prequalifying will be reimbursed. Invitations for bidding will only be sent to firms or consortia which are prequalified.

The Council for Development and Reconstruction (CDR) invites contracting forum or consortia interested in bidding for all of the packages, to obtain prequalification documents from the CDR, Beirut - Lebanon that will be available by December 3, 1992. Deadlines for submission of prequalification bids with all supporting material at the CDR offices in Beirut, Lebanon is 12:00 noon on December 21 1992.

ESCORTS & GUIDES MERCEDES LONDON BRAZILIAN Escort Chelsea Escort Service ZURICH

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFIED (Continued From Page 4) ESCORTS & GUIDES GENEVA PARIS CONNECTION PRAIRIE HOTEL AREA GENEVA ESCORT SERVICE

ESCORTS & GUIDES GENEVA ESCORT SERVICE PRAIRIE HOTEL AREA GENEVA ESCORT SERVICE

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SPORTS TENNIS

Agassi and Hlasek Will Open Battle for Davis Cup Title

The Associated Press
FORT WORTH, Texas — Andre Agassi's was the first name selected Thursday, which will pit him against Jakob Hlasek in the opening match Friday of the Davis Cup final between the United States and Switzerland.

Top-ranked Jim Courier will play Marc Rosset in the first of two other singles matches. The best-of-five final will end on Sunday.

On Saturday, Pete Sampras and John McEnroe will face Hlasek and Rosset in doubles, and on Sunday, it will be Courier playing against Hlasek and Agassi taking on Rosset.

The matches will be played on a hard Plex-Court surface at the Tarrant County Convention Center.

Hlasek predicted a victory in Switzerland's first Davis Cup final. The Americans said they were confident but not quite that bold.

"You can't mistake that confidence for overconfidence," Agassi said. "We understand the task that's ahead of us."

"It does not matter what Agassi thinks about the match," responded the Swiss team's captain, Tim Sturdivant. "It doesn't matter what you see in your dream. The point is what is going to happen on the court."

With McEnroe's marital problems hitting the headlines this week, it may be up to Agassi to provide leadership for the U.S. team.

McEnroe practiced in a closed session Wednesday. On Tuesday, he skipped a news conference after reports surfaced that his marriage to the actress Tatum O'Neal is in trouble.

The U.S. team's captain, Tom Gorman, said McEnroe intends to play in the final. But, Gorman said, "He prefers not to be in a situation where he has to answer any questions of a personal nature."

McEnroe, 33, is 41-8 in Davis Cup play. Agassi is 18-4. Courier is only 2-4 and Sampras just 3-3.

Agassi said he is still riding the high from winning Wimbledon with a thrilling five-set victory over Gorman last June for his first Grand Slam title.

"The hangover from the celebration is still with me," he said. "I've got to believe that will be with me the rest of my life."

"The high of being on cloud nine has died down, but the hump you get over winning something like that is hopefully going to help me be the best one day," Agassi said.

"Wimbledon to me, I'll always feel a difference in my game, because it was such an obstacle, such a turning point."

Rosset won the singles gold medal at the Barcelona Olympics, where he defeated, in order, top-seeded Courier, hometown favorite Emilio Sanchez, Ivanisevic and Jordi Arrese.

Rosset said beating Courier in Spain gave his career and confidence a boost.

"It's really important because I know that if I play him again, I know that I can beat him again," Rosset said.

Agassi brings a nine-match winning streak in Davis Cup play into the final.

"I think I play well in the Davis Cup for one main reason," Agassi said. "There are four days of good practice. I've never really had that kind of opportunity to play with such great players for preparation."

"Four days with guys like that and you're at the top of your game. I'm fortunate to say that when I'm at the top of my game, I don't lose often."



A Russian Night Ends With Red Lights All About

Gary Roberts, giving John Leblanc an unwanted boost from behind, scored 15 seconds after teammate Joel Otto in the third period to give Calgary a 3-3 tie with visiting Winnipeg and second place in the Smythe Division. The Jets got off their scoring from two Russian rookies, with two goals by Alexei Zhuravov and one by Evgeni Davydov. In New York, Sergei Nemchinov's breakaway goal midway through the third period broke a tie as the Rangers beat Detroit, 5-3, to end their losing streak in Madison Square Garden at four games, the longest in nine years.

Yanks And Bonds A Sixth Year Apart

The Associated Press
NEW YORK — The New York Yankees seemed confused Thursday about who was doing what in the pursuit of Barry Bonds, but it still appeared that they were the only team in serious contention to land this season's best free agent.

The Yankees' general partner, Joe Molloy, contradicted earlier statements by the general manager, Gene Michael, by insisting that the club had not withdrawn its contract offer to the outfielder.

"Contrary to reports, we did not take the offer off the table," Molloy said. "The offer was turned down by Barry's people after they had insisted we give an additional year to the original deal offered."

Earlier, Michael said the Yankees had withdrawn the offer to Bonds, just as they had previously with pitchers David Cone, Doug Drabek and Jose Guzman.

Bonds' agent, Dennis Gilbert, said in Los Angeles that "I don't know what's going to happen next. I'm sure we'll talk."

The Yankees were said to have made offers of \$35 million for Bonds over five years, but Gilbert reportedly was pushing for a six-year deal worth about \$42 million.

Along with Bonds, the National League's most valuable player, the Yankees are actively pursuing Greg Maddux, the NL's Cy Young Award winner.

Michael spoke earlier with Maddux and his agent, Scott Boras, in Las Vegas. The Yankees' offer was said to be worth more than \$30 million over five years, which

would make Maddux the highest-paid pitcher in baseball.

The Yankees, the Atlanta Braves and the Los Angeles Dodgers figured to be the teams most interested in signing Bonds. The Dodgers' starting outfielder was completed Tuesday after they re-signed Eric Davis to a \$1 million, one-year deal.

The Braves' president, Stan Kasten, said Tuesday he didn't believe his team would be able to meet Bonds' price, although the general manager, John Schuenholz, said that "we're still talking."

On the Maddux front, Boras said the deal was expected until next week.

"We're talking with everybody and trying to get that finalized in the next few days," Boras said.

The Seattle Mariners landed pitcher Chris Bosio and the Detroit Tigers re-signed shortstop Alan Trammell on Wednesday.

Bosio said he will sign a four-year contract with the Mariners with an option for 1997, a package said to be worth slightly more than Jose Guzman's \$14.35 million deal with the Chicago Cubs.

Bosio, 29, was 16-6 with a 3.62 ERA last season for the Milwaukee Brewers and set a team record with 10 straight victories.

Trammell, 34, agreed to stay with the Tigers for \$1.5 million and performance bonuses. The Tigers get a \$2.4 million option for 1994, which would become guaranteed if he plays regularly next season.

He has been hampered by injuries the past several seasons.

SIDELINES

Snowstorm May Halt Downhill Race

VAL D'ISERE, France (UPI) — A snowstorm that struck the French Alps on Thursday morning forced organizers to call off the final training run for the opening downhill race of the men's World Cup season.

Friday's downhill, the first speed event of the 1992-93 season, appeared to be endangered by weather reports predicting that the snow would continue falling. A final decision on whether to race would be taken Friday morning, officials said.

Organizers were considering a proposal to switch a super-giant slalom from Saturday to Friday, with the high-profile downhill moved to Saturday and the season's second slalom retained for Sunday.

Byrd Undergoes 7-Hour Operation

NEW YORK (NYT) — The New York Jets' defensive end, Dennis Byrd, was in stable and in satisfactory condition Thursday after a team of six surgeons, in a seven-hour operation, successfully stabilized the fractured fifth cervical vertebra in his neck. But it could be as long as two years before Byrd will know if he will regain the use of his paralyzed legs, according to Elliott Hershan, the team's orthopedist.

Hershan said that three metal plates — one in the front of the vertebra and two on the sides, affixed by a total of nine steel and titanium screws — were used Wednesday to hold the fractured vertebra in place. He described the damage to the vertebra as "extensive."

Byrd is being given what Hershan called an experimental drug, Sygen or GM-1 ganglioside, that doctors hope will help heal the spinal cord. Sygen has not been approved by the Food and Drug Administration for use in the United States, but it is being used on Byrd with his permission.

Faldo Leading Chase for \$1 Million

SUN CITY, South Africa (AP) — British Open champion Nick Faldo, with three birdies on the back-nine, shot 3-under-par 69 Thursday for a one-stroke lead after first-round of the Million Dollar Challenge golf tournament.

South Africans Ernie Els and David Frost were tied for second, while Nick Price, the U.S. PGA winner, and Jose-Maria Olazabal of Spain shot even par. John Cook of the United States and defending champion Bernhard Langer of Germany were another shot back; Masters champion Fred Couples and Australian Craig Parry finished at 74, a shot ahead of Ian Woosnam of Wales.

Scotland's Colin Montgomerie and Australian rookie Robert Allenby shot 6-under-par 66s to share the first-round lead in the Johnnie Walker Classic in Melbourne, Australia.

For the Record

Heike Henkel, who won the Olympic gold medal in the women's high jump, and Dieter Baumann, who won the 5,000-meter gold, were elected Thursday as Germany's athletes of the year. (AP)

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NBA Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE			WESTERN CONFERENCE		
Atlantic Division	W	L	Pac Division	W	L
Orlando	8	16	Utah	8	15
New York	9	14	Houston	7	16
New Jersey	6	17	Denver	6	18
Boston	6	17	San Antonio	6	18
Washington	5	18	Milwaukee	6	18
Atlanta	4	19	Minnesota	5	19
Philadelphia	3	20	Dallas	5	19
			Pacific Division		
			Portland	10	7
			Phoenix	10	7
			San Jose	9	8
			LA Lakers	7	10
			LA Clippers	7	10
			Golden State	6	11

Major College Scores

EAST		WEST	
Cornell	79-61	Stanford	72-66
Connecticut	82-64	Utah	71-64
Illinois	77-61	Arizona	70-63
Michigan	75-60	Washington	69-62
North Carolina	74-60	Washington State	68-61
Pittsburgh	73-59	Arizona State	67-60
South Carolina	72-58	Colorado	66-59
Texas	71-57	Idaho	65-58
Virginia	70-56	Montana	64-57
Wake Forest	69-55	Wyoming	63-56

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

EAST		WEST	
Chicago	101-94	San Antonio	100-93
Charlotte	98-91	Phoenix	99-92
Golden State	97-90	Portland	98-91
Indiana	96-89	Utah	97-90
Los Angeles	95-88	Washington	96-89
Milwaukee	94-87	Washington State	95-88
Minnesota	93-86	Arizona	94-87
New York	92-85	Arizona State	93-86
Oklahoma City	91-84	Colorado	92-85
Orlando	90-83	Idaho	91-84
Philadelphia	89-82	Montana	90-83
Pittsburgh	88-81	Wyoming	89-82
Sacramento	87-80		

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL
 DETROIT — Agreed to one-year contract with Alan Trammell, shortstop.
 CHICAGO — Agreed to one-year contract with Steve Loke, catcher.
 FLORIDA — Agreed to minor league contracts with Chuck Jackson and Gus Peppers, infielders; and Mitch Lyden, catcher-first baseman; assigned them to Edmondville, PCL.
 NEW YORK — Agreed to one-year contract with Roger Marz, pitcher.
 SAN DIEGO — Signed Bob Geren, catcher, to minor league contract and assigned him to Los Angeles, PCL.

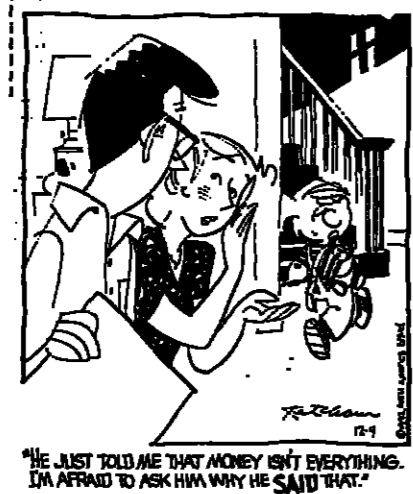
BASKETBALL
 NEW YORK — Agreed to one-year contract with Steve Loke, catcher.
 CHICAGO — Agreed to one-year contract with Steve Loke, catcher.
 FLORIDA — Agreed to minor league contracts with Chuck Jackson and Gus Peppers, infielders; and Mitch Lyden, catcher-first baseman; assigned them to Edmondville, PCL.
 NEW YORK — Agreed to one-year contract with Roger Marz, pitcher.
 SAN DIEGO — Signed Bob Geren, catcher, to minor league contract and assigned him to Los Angeles, PCL.

SOCCER
 ENGLISH LEAGUE CUP
 Fourth round
 Aston Villa 2, Wrexham 2
 Everton 2, Chelsea 2
 Nottingham Forest 2, Tottenham 0
 Sheffield Wednesday 4, Queens Park Rangers 0

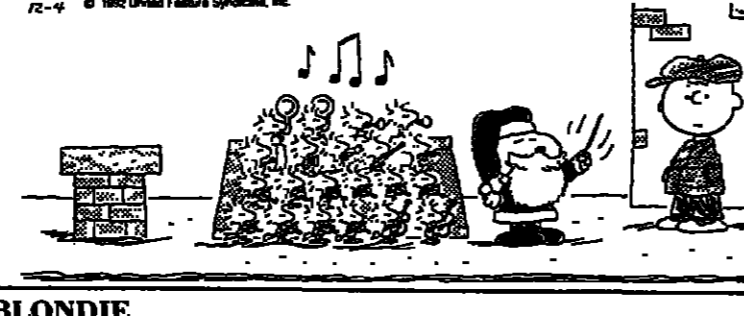
GERMAN CUP
 Quarterfinals
 Borussia Dortmund 1, Eintracht Frankfurt 1
 Fortuna Sittard 1, Alkmaar 0 (after shoot-out)

DUTCH CUP
 FC Den Bosch 2, Witasse Arnhem 1
 PSV Eindhoven 2, FC Utrecht 1
 Feyenoord 3, Oss 1
 FC Groningen 2, Excelsior Rotterdam 0

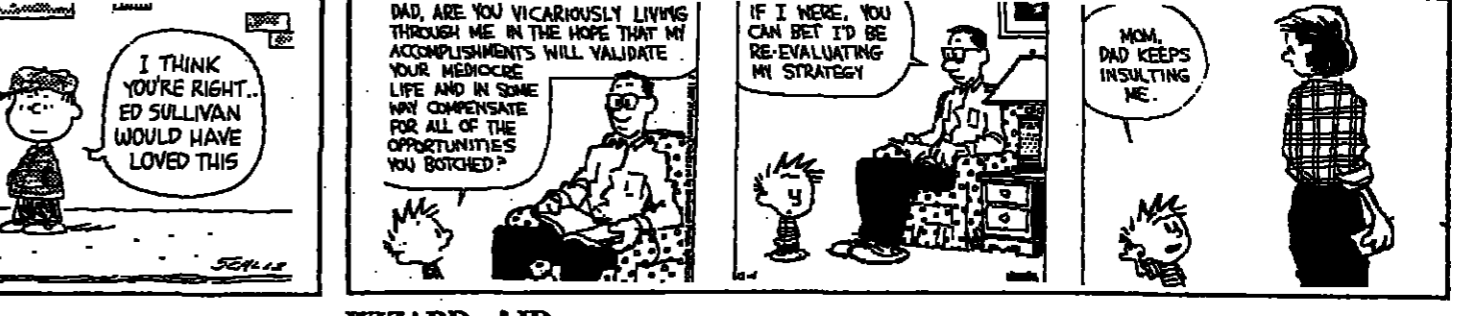
DENNIS THE MENACE



PEANUTS



CALVIN AND HOBBES



JUNBLE

That scrambled word clues will help you find the words.

Available from four Junble puzzle books. Each book contains 100 puzzles, 100 words to find, and 100 clues.

How you're going to solve the puzzle.

A GUY SELECTED TO BE BOSS IS OFTEN THE ONE WHO DOESN'T TRY.

How arrange the circled letters to form the appropriate answer, as indicated by the clues.

Print answer here: _____

Answers tomorrow

Yesterday's: ANSWER: CREEP, MIDGE, KENNEL, UNWELLNESS
 Answer: Another name for reptiles — SNAKE

BLONDIE



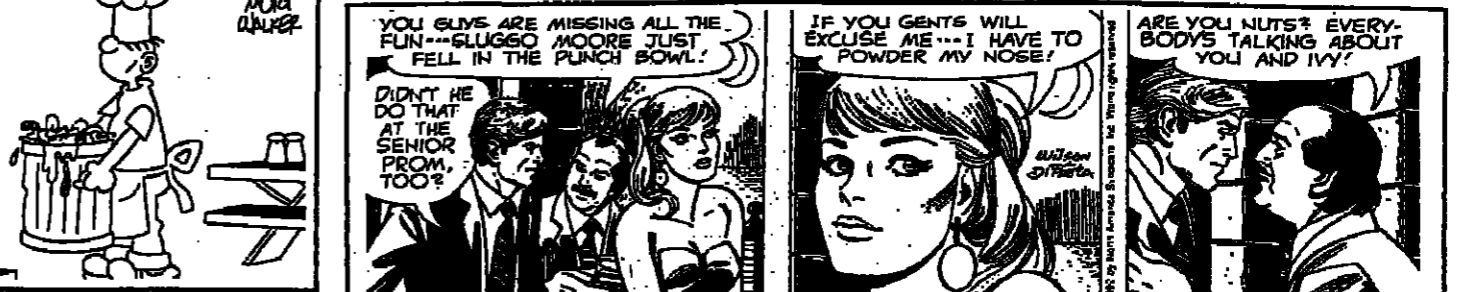
WIZARD OF ID



BEEBLE BAILEY



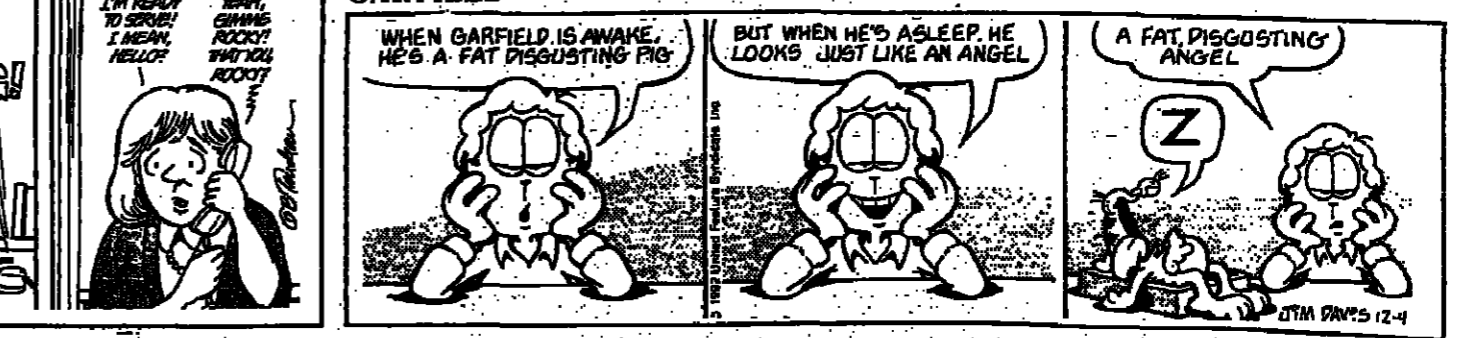
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OBSERVER

The Short-Movie Policy

By Russell Baker
NEW YORK — People said you had to see "Malcolm X." It was a news event. Everybody would be talking about it. It would be the basis for a new philosophy. If you hadn't seen "Malcolm X," you'd have no right to take part in the great policy debates it would fuel.

It made "Malcolm X" sound like a course in civics. What ever happened to going to the movies for the fun of it? Even movies that are supposed to be simple-minded fun for the simple-minded are hard to take nowadays. Look at the typical shoot-'em-up. If you like watching heart-transplant surgery and enjoy sitting through a good autopsy you'll love movies of the "Rambo" and "Terminator" school.

The publicity about "Malcolm X" made it sound like spinach: not much fun, but good for you. I figured it had to be seen. My life is a testament to the power of the notion that mankind should never flinch from things that are good for it, no matter how feeble they be.

I eat not only spinach but also brussels sprouts and cauliflower. I took physics and calculus in school, though neither was required and both humiliated me. I read Marcel Proust's "Remembrance of Things Past" and, despite medical warnings, remain determined to read every book Henry James ever wrote.

Such has been my enslavement to the proposition that humanity ought to improve itself through suffering. When it comes to movies, however, my policy has changed. The change occurred long ago after I spent two or three weeks watching "Gandhi."

Like calculus, "Gandhi" was supposed to be good for you. It made Gandhi out to be a preposterously boring man of inhuman nobility. I was amazed, having supposed that it would take a very interesting, flawed man to clear the British out of India.

When "Gandhi" finally stopped, I adopted a policy change affecting movies. Thereafter any movie that was good for you had to do its good work in less than 2 hours and 16 minutes. If it didn't I was entitled to pass it up.

To compensate, I would spend an extra hour each day for a week reading something that was not fun, but good for me. This policy not only excused me from a 3-hour-and-8-minute experience with

"JFK," but also enabled me to read 17 pages of Henry James and, best of all, let me leave the room quietly whenever people who had seen "JFK" started quarreling about the Warren Commission.

Except for the post-"Gandhi" policy, I would not only have had to see "JFK" but also read the Warren Commission report, a veritable Everest of legal and federal prose beside which Henry James's "The Golden Bowl" seems as frothy as reading "Peter Rabbit" in a shaded Cotswolds glade.

When I heard that "Malcolm X" was in the "Gandhi"-"JFK" ballpark — three hours and then some — my policy left no choice. It had to be passed up until it is cut to 2 hours and 15 minutes, which is probably a good idea. Practically everything can be made better with cutting, and that includes Henry James. Yes, especially newspaper columns.

So instead of seeing "Malcolm X," I saw "Bram Stoker's Dracula." Why? The publicity hinted that it was not at all good for you, and the alternative was a reread of "Home Alone," which is basically "Woody Woodpecker" with humans.

Are "Home Alone" movies giving children the impression that a cute kid is more than a match for the famously murderous thugs? The spirit of W. C. Fields, who is said to have despised cute kids, lurks behind these movies. Their deeper aim may be to tempt cute kids to invite obliteration when felony is afoot.

Professional reviewers, who probably see too many movies for their readers' good, have abused the latest "Dracula" unjustly. True, it has absolutely nothing on its mind except special effects, but these are entertaining in a silly way. Like most movies, it is also too long, and this lets the audience realize it's boring.

But "Dracula," of course, has always been boring. Stoker's book is boring. The Bela Lugosi classic is boring after that smash opening in Transylvania. The new version's special effects and sexual explicitness keep jolting the audience awake. Lacking these resources, the 1931 Lugosi "Dracula" was content to call it a show after a mere hour and 15 minutes.

If "Gandhi" had been so wise, this column would have been about "Malcolm X."

New York Times Service

Rob Reiner: Out of His Father's Shadow

By Bernard Weinraub

LOS ANGELES — For Rob Reiner, the film "A Few Good Men" carries remarkable personal resonance. Not that Reiner has served in the navy or faced a high-stakes military trial, which is the centerpiece of the movie.

Instead, the 45-year-old director identifies almost eerily with the navy lawyer Daniel Kaffee (played by Tom Cruise), whose glib, wise-guy style masks intense fears about living in the shadow of a father, now dead, who was a renowned naval attorney general.

"In all my films," said Reiner, who had struggled for years to move out of the shadow of his own father, the writer and director Carl Reiner. "I've got to finish something I can hook up with, connect with. Kaffee is in the same business as his father; I'm in the same business as mine. Everywhere I went when I started out, it was 'Carl Reiner this,' 'Carl Reiner that.' He's the nicest man in the world, incredibly sweet-natured, but it was frightening to be compared to him."

The film opens next Friday in the U.S. to a blizzard of promotion, largely because of its high-powered stars. Along with Cruise, the cast includes Jack Nicholson, playing a hard-edged, highly decorated Marine colonel, as well as Demi Moore as a member of Kaffee's defense team. Adapted by Aaron Sorkin from his 1989 Broadway play, the movie traces a navy lawyer's quest for justice in the case of two marines accused of murder because of their punishment of a Marine private at the U.S. Naval Station at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. The question to be resolved: Did the Marines act on their own, or were they obeying orders?

"What we're dealing with here is a very strong moral dilemma," Reiner said, seated on a cream-colored sofa in his airy, vaguely Southern-style office in Beverly Hills. "Where do you draw the line between being loyal and following orders, and acting on your own when something is immoral or illegal. It's the same moral dilemma the Nazis dealt with at Nuremberg, or Calley at My Lai. And it doesn't just apply to the military. We all live in corporate or business cultures. We're all subordinate to somebody else. We all have to make decisions about what's right and what's wrong."

At the center of the moral dilemma is the lawyer Kaffee, who was played by Tom Hille on Broadway. "I got a call from Rob, who said he wanted to direct the movie," Cruise said, "and I should see the play. I called him that evening and said, 'I'm in.'"

Reiner, who is unpretentious and gregarious, enjoys working with actors but also spends an unusual amount of time with writers, revising scripts line by line. According to Sorkin, the drama, which received mixed reviews but ran more than a year, was almost entirely overhauled



Rob Reiner finds in his films "something I can hook up with, connect with."

for the movie. The "smoking gun" in the Broadway play (a doctored logbook) was eliminated from the film. Reiner apparently felt that with a smoking gun, you didn't need a brilliant lawyer. Instead, he wanted the character of Kaffee to be cunning. "It was done page by page," Sorkin said of the revision process. "It was loud and intense and passionate work. If someone in the script asked for a glass of water, Rob would ask, 'Why a glass and not a cup?' He kept saying, 'How does this fit into the puzzle?' The script had to be rock solid. He won't let you get away with one extra line. He needed every question answered."

Sorkin described Reiner as "a very articulate" about his yearning to focus on the father-son elements. "It came through very loud when we were working on the movie," he said. "He would tell me stories about how difficult it was to grow up being the son of a famous father."

Rob Reiner is the oldest of three children of Carl and Estelle Reiner. "It wasn't easy for him, because he was impatient and he knew what he wanted," said Carl

Reiner, who has been in show business for more than 40 years. "But he was lucky to have the intelligence and the talent." "Rob was a self-starter. He never asked for money. He never asked for introductions. Even though he was born into a show-business house, he really did it all by himself."

The son said that it took years for him to distance himself from his father. "When I was a little kid, I wanted so badly to be like him I once said to him I want to change my name. And he said, 'To what?' And I said, 'To Carl.'"

Apparently unready to leave the subject of childhood and separation behind, Reiner will next direct a fantasy called "North," based on a novel by Alan Zweibel, a television comedy writer. The movie concerns a 9-year-old boy who decides to become emancipated from his parents. Over the last six years Reiner's hits have included "Stand by Me," "The Princess Bride," "When Harry Met Sally..." and "Misery." Yet he has sometimes been criticized for, in the words of one leading

producer, "playing things a little too safe, not quite pushing the envelope further or being more of a heavyweight."

But Reiner seems to be satisfied with his choices; his priority is finding stories that strike a personal chord. One was Stephen King's novel "Misery," which he turned into the 1990 film about a writer, played by James Caan, who is trapped and kept prisoner by a lunatic fan (Kathy Bates).

"It was very personal in a weird way," said Reiner, who perversely saw "Misery" as the story of a man, not unlike himself, who was trying to branch out creatively. "Here I was, a television actor for eight years," he said of playing Methead, Archie Bunker's son-in-law, in the long-running CBS series "All in the Family." "I was famous, and everyone knew me, and I wanted desperately to become a film director. And it was very hard for people in this community to accept that. It took me years."

Similarly, he found personal resonance in the 1989 romantic comedy "When Harry Met Sally..." which portrayed a couple (Billy Crystal and Meg Ryan) treading the delicate line between friendship and romance. Reiner, who divorced the director Penny Marshall in 1981 after 10 years of marriage, said that the movie "was born out of my experience of being thrown out in the dating world and being very confused about whether you could be friends with a woman, or did sex always have to come into the equation."

(Since 1989, Reiner has been married to Michele Singer, a photographer; they have a 1-year-old son.) Reiner has been able to pursue such visions because of his relationship with Castle Rock, one of the larger and more successful independents. His total control over casting and production is rare. So, for "Misery," he cast Caan, whose career was then in the doldrums, and Bates, a stage actress who was virtually unknown on the screen.

Had Reiner worked at a studio, the Caan-Bates casting would have been virtually unthinkable. Bates, who won an Academy Award for the part of the deranged fan, Annie Wilkes, said of the director: "He and I really played Annie together. His eye was always in sync with my emotions." Reiner considers his breakthrough to be "Stand by Me," a critically well-received movie about boyhood friendships that opened two years later.

"It was a rite-of-passage film," he says. "It was closer to my personality than anything I had done up to then, and it's something my father never would have come near. When I was making it, I kept thinking, 'Boy, I hope this works, because if it doesn't I'll be in serious trouble.' The audience would have been rejecting me when I was taking my first departure from my father, venturing into a new area."

Does he still think about what would have happened had the film failed. "All the time," said Reiner, without a smile.

PEOPLE

Kennedys Say JFK Book Is Full of 'Falsehoods'

Senator Edward M. Kennedy and his three sisters say a new biography about President John F. Kennedy's youth, which includes allegations of child abuse, is full of "outrageous falsehoods." It is preposterous to call any of us "abused children," the senator and his sisters — Jean Smith, Eunice Shirer and Patricia Lawford — wrote in an article published in The New York Times. "Our parents gave us love, support and encouragement throughout their lives." The Kennedys referred to "misjudgments, mischaracterizations and insinuations" in Nigel Hamilton's book, "JFK: Reckless Youth."

The English artist Francis Bacon left his estate more than £10 million (\$15.5 million) to his companion, John Edwards. Bacon died in April at 82 of a heart attack.

Julia Roberts, who hasn't starred in a movie since "Hook" last year, has signed a deal with the independent producer Joe Roth to develop projects. Roth, the former 20th Century Fox studio chief, moved to Disney as an independent producer last month.

The former wife of Sir Rudolf Bing wants to see the 91-year-old former impresario of the Metropolitan Opera despite a judge's annulment of their marriage in 1990. Lady Carroll Douglas Bing, who eloped with Bing in 1967, asked a New York court for an opportunity to see him. His lawyers say that Bing, who suffers from Alzheimer's disease, has no memory of the marriage.

Fergie on the move: The Duchess of York visited a hospital in Poland and gave young cancer patients copies of her book for children, "Bugdie the Helicopter."

The jingle, the rumble and the roar sounded once again as Roy Acuff's "Wabash Cannonball" filled the air at a memorial service in Nashville for the man known as "the king of country music." Acuff, who died Nov. 23 at age 89, was honored by some of the genre's greatest: Chet Atkins, Eddy Arnold, Little Jimmy Dickens, Bill Monroe, Ricky Skaggs and Jeanette Seely.

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFIED Appears on Page 4

WEATHER

Weather forecast section including maps and tables for Europe, Asia, North America, Middle East, and Oceania. Includes a map of the United States and a table of temperatures and conditions for various regions.

CROSSWORD

Crossword puzzle section with clues for Across and Down words. Includes a grid for the puzzle and a solution for a puzzle from Dec. 3.

BOOKS

THE CALL OF THE TOAD By Günter Grass. Translated by Ralph Manheim. Illustrated by the author. 248 pages. \$19.95. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich. Reviewed by Herbert Mitgang. NEVER expect the expected from Günter Grass, one reason he continues to be Germany's most original novelist and most engaged essayist. Grass is what Germans call a Querdenker, someone whose thoughts cut in a risky, original way against the grain.

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott. AN OLD Latin maxim insists that the law does not concern itself with small things. But that does not apply to bridge players, who must worry about small cards and small scoring advantages. The player who throws away an imp or two usually escapes unpunished, but once in a while a small lapse has a big impact.

Van Cleef & Arpels advertisement featuring images of jewelry and the text: 'Van Cleef & Arpels signent vos plus beaux Anniversaires.' 'Il est des signatures auxquelles on tiens.' 'la boutique'

Russian Eggs at the Library of Congress. By Jura Koncius. WASHINGTON — At first glance, the hand-painted lacquered wood eggs on sale at the Library of Congress gift shop seem like novel souvenirs of Washington, highlighting attractions like the White House, the Supreme Court and the Capitol.